

# THE TIMES

35P

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**16-PAGE SUPPLEMENT FOR SECRETARIES INSIDE INTERFACE**

## Strategy would expose revolt by Left Tories offer Blair pact on benefit cuts

**BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN**

WILLIAM HAGUE is to offer to join Tony Blair in an extraordinary alliance against "old Labour" MPs to help him to overhaul the welfare state.

The promise of a "consensus for radical reform" — to be made by Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, today — raises the prospect of Labour leftwingers defending the middle class against a combined assault on their benefits by the Blairites and Tories.

The offer of a deal comes after senior Conservatives rejected the attractive option of speaking up for the many traditional Tory voters who would lose money through a welfare shake-up. They chose instead to back the Prime Minister — partly because some of the reforms are in line with their thinking, but also as a ploy to exploit any leftwing rebellion that could damage Mr Blair.

Before Christmas, 47 Labour MPs voted against cuts in single-parent benefits after the Tories decided to vote with the Government. The revolt was inflamed because the notion of voting with the Conservatives was unpalatable for some MPs who would otherwise have obeyed the party line. Now the Tories want to maximise any future rebellions as leftwingers become increasingly angry about moves to end universal benefits.

Labour backbenchers said yesterday that they would fight "tooth and nail" proposals that would penalise children, pregnant mothers or



Duncan Smith: "We will back the Government"

disabled people and they scoffed at Mr Blair's roadshow to sell the reforms, which sets off tomorrow. "This is nothing like Clause 4," one said, referring to Mr Blair's last such campaign. "This is not about philosophy. This hurts."

The leftwingers will make their feelings clear again this afternoon when the party's backbench — social — security committee questions Harriet Harman about her plans to cap statutory maternity pay. They are also worried about suggestions that child benefit should be taxed and that disability benefits will be either means-tested or taxed — most believe that money should be redistributed through higher income tax rates. "Someone who is pregnant, has a child or is disabled should be entitled to extra help, irrespective of their income," one backbencher said.

Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party,

will also warn the Prime Minister this afternoon about the strength of feeling and the need to proceed cautiously.

Mr Blair will certainly be wary of the Tories' offer of support, which will be put forward in speeches by Mr Duncan Smith and Mr Hague today and tomorrow. Mr Duncan Smith will liken Labour to squatters who have camped in the garden of the Tory house and say that the response should not be to vacate a building with sound foundations, but to see whether the newcomers have the strength of purpose to weather the political storms ahead.

He will promise: "When the Government are right, we will support them against their own party." But he will put a price on that support, saying that measures must promote personal responsibility, erode the dependency culture, boost the family and expand the role of the private and voluntary sectors in providing welfare.

He will also make clear that the Tory leadership believes that plans for an "affluence test" aimed at restricting middle-class benefits fall well short of the root-and-branch reforms it wants.

Instead, he will urge ministers to "get serious" and bring forward detailed plans for change, not least in pensions. He told *The Times* last night that Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, should be allowed to table his proposals for compulsory second pensions.



Shirley Bassey leaving court yesterday after denying an hotel bedroom assault

## Shirley Bassey slapped me in drunken rage, claims ex-aide

**BY KATHRYN KNIGHT**

SHIRLEY BASSEY defended herself yesterday against a claim that she had slapped a former personal assistant in a drunken rage and called her a "Jewish bitch".

The incident occurred said Hilary Levy, the singer's assistant for 15 years, after she asked for a few hours off work after an evening's lengthy celebrations during a concert tour in South Africa.

She told Brentford County Court that Miss Bassey slapped her across the back so hard she had left an imprint, and told her she was "out tomorrow".

Miss Levy is suing for breach of contract. She claims she is owed £7,650 by the singer, and her promotion company, SSM, for loss of earnings.

As Miss Bassey, wearing a chocolate trouser suit and fur hat, sat impassively a few feet away Miss Levy, 44, told the court that a row had erupted between them in a Cape Town hotel in December, 1993.

She said Miss Bassey had already upset her during the course of the evening by confronting her over the fact that she did not appear to be drinking. "Miss Bassey asked me, 'Why are you so miserable? Why are you not drinking?' I told her that there was only white wine. She knew I only drank red. She said to me: 'You'll have to go without then.'"

The two eventually retired to Miss Bassey's hotel room where Miss Levy said she asked for a few hours off the next day to catch up on her sleep. She said she was supposed to go shopping and prepare the star's breakfast. Miss Bassey refused and there was an argument.

Miss Levy said she had left the room but returned to demand: "Do you expect me to



Levy: "Bassey called me a Jewish bitch"

work 24 hours a day?" before returning to her own room, slamming the door.

"She followed me into the bedroom and shouted: 'Nobody slams the door on me.' She was very agitated, she was coming towards me, waving her arms around. I thought she was going to hit me. I was scared. I said: 'Don't hit me.'"

"She yelled: 'I will hit you if I want to.'"

Pointing to her shoulder blade, Miss Levy said: "She hit me on the back, whacked me. If I had a camera, I would have taken a picture of the slap mark on my back. I was scared. If she'd come any closer, the heels of my shoes would have gone into her stomach."

Miss Bassey had then called her a "Jewish bitch" and told her she was "out tomorrow". Miss Levy, from Mill Hill, north-west London, said she left next morning without seeing her employer.

Miss Bassey mounted the defence: "Do you expect me to

### Hitler 'ordered the Holocaust'

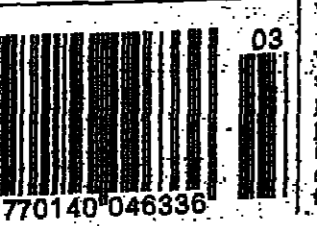
A German historian has unearthed documents in the KGB archives which he says show that Hitler ordered the killing of European Jews. The discovery will prompt fresh controversy in the long-standing dispute between historians about the extent of Hitler's involvement. **Page 14**

### Lottery 'bribe'

A director of Camelot attempted to bribe Richard Branson to withdraw his bid to run the National Lottery as they lunched in a gamble that did not pay off, the High Court was told. **Page 4**

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## Wakeham quits racing job in row over cash

**BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT**

LORD WAKEHAM, the former Conservative Cabinet Minister, resigned yesterday as chairman and a director of the British Horseracing Board in protest at what he considers unrealistic financial demands being made by the sport to the Government.

His departure, less than half way through a four year term of office, follows months of internal wrangling and personality clashes. Lord Wakeham stood down when he failed to obtain support from fellow directors for his views on a new financial plan for racing which is due to be unveiled today.

The plan, largely the work of Peter Savill, President of the Racehorse Owners' Association and a fierce critic of Lord Wakeham, says that racing needs an extra £105 million a year to rectify historically low funding — with most of that coming from government sources.

Lord Wakeham said in his resignation statement: "I was unable to agree with the financial plan put before the board this morning. In my opinion the plan is unrealistic in the current economic circumstances."

In a recent interview with *The Times*, Lord Wakeham said the Government would think racing was "absolutely potty" if it made demands for £80 million from reduced betting duty at a time when Ministers were grappling with painful welfare reforms.

Apart from the disagreement over policy, Lord Wakeham has found himself at the centre of growing criticism among the racing industry about the number of jobs he holds outside the sport, including chairmanship of the Press Complaints Commission.

However, his biggest *bête noire*, has been Mr Savill, a successful businessman and owner of Celtic Swing, the 1995 French Derby winner, who has articulated the financial despair felt by many sections of the industry. The pair clashed repeatedly with Lord Wakeham accusing Mr Savill of being politically naive and lacking realism while Mr Savill accused the peer of lack of leadership.

Sir Thomas Pilkington, who will be acting chairman of the board until a successor is found, said yesterday: "I want to emphasise that all sectors of the industry are united in supporting the new financial plan that we will be releasing tomorrow. It is a comprehensive and carefully argued review of racing's position, and we look forward to a constructive dialogue with government on it."

## Japanese money sought for dome

**BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR**

TOYOTA may pay £12 million towards the Millennium Dome and other Japanese companies are considering investing in the project following Tony Blair's trip to Japan.

Big companies with British interests like Sony, Toshiba and Nissan were pressed to contribute to the project because the necessary £150 million of private sector investment remains far from being reached.

Sir Colin Marshall, who led the business delegation to Japan, said yesterday that sponsors were also being sought in the United States. His own company — he is chairman of British Airways — is putting in £6 million, but is one of the few British firms to have committed finance.

It is envisaged that companies which sponsor the Millennium Experience will be permitted to show off their latest technological advances at one of the nine exhibition centres planned for the dome. Sir Colin said Japanese companies had shown a big interest in displaying the high tech aspects of their business to the extremely large audience that would visit the dome after 2000.

Mr Blair was reported to have been surprised by the high level of interest in Japan. An aide said: "They all know about Greenwich because of Greenwich Mean Time, but they are particularly interested because Britain seems to be the only place that is doing something big for the millennium."

Robert Ayling, the chief executive of British Airways, is chairman of the Millennium Experience. The dome will also be financed by ticket sales and £200 million from the National Lottery.

## England star suspended over ear-biting scrum

**BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES**

AN ENGLAND rugby international was last night suspended by Bath Rugby Club following the ear-biting incident which left a London Scottish player needing 25 stitches.

Simon Fenn lost part of an ear lobe during a collapsed scrum and left the pitch in Saturday's cup match at Bath with blood pouring from the wound.

Bath said last night that Kevin Yates, who denies being the culprit, has been suspended on full pay pending a disciplinary hearing. This is expected to take place within the next seven days. Yates immediately withdrew from a training session with the England squad planned for this morning, but he was assured by the team coach Clive Woodward that he would remain a member of the squad.

The suspension came as a relief to two of Bath's most famous names, Victor Uboha, 33, and Federico Mendez, 25, the Argentine hooker. The two players had been named with Yates by London Scottish in a complaint to the Rugby Football Union. A statement from Bath said: "The club is extremely annoyed that London Scottish has cited three players when clearly only a maximum of one player could have been responsible."

Tony Swift, Bath's chief executive, said last night that Uboha and Mendez were taking legal advice. He said: "We have interviewed most of our players, reviewed five video tapes and taken advice from members of the legal profession. But all the players we have interviewed have stated they are innocent."

Yates, 25, was capped twice for England during last year's tour of Argentina. If found guilty at the disciplinary hearing his contract with Bath is likely to be terminated. He could then face further action by the RFU and would almost certainly lose his England place. He could also face criminal prosecution, but only if his victim makes a direct complaint to the police.

A police source said yesterday: "There has been no such complaint and until there is there is nothing for us to investigate."



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NEW ORBY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Portillo delivers warning over EMU

Michael Portillo will today warn that a single currency could destabilise Europe and spark future conflicts...

Drugs girl free

Moscow City Court upheld Karen Henderson's conviction and 23-month sentence for smuggling 9lb of cocaine into Russia...

Diana fund chief

The post of chief executive for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund is being advertised from today with a salary of £75,000...

Rail strikes

Aslef, the train drivers' union, yesterday announced a further series of 24-hour strikes that will bring chaos for commuters on Merseyrail...

Path cycling fine

A £20 on-the-spot fine for cycling on pavements will be in force by the summer. Ministers have decided to allow police and traffic wardens to impose fixed penalties against offenders...

Fly takes wing

Scottish conservationists have discovered a new species of fly in their own backyard. Larvae found in rotting wood at the Scottish Natural Heritage headquarters near Perth emerged to be an unknown species of Palloptera...

Brothers missing

Two brothers were feared drowned last night after a 17-hour search covering 5,000 square miles of sea off Shetland failed to find any trace of their fishing boat...

Roger Clark dies

The former British RAC Rally champion Roger Clark has died from a stroke at the age of 58 after 18 months of heart-related illness...

Tread lightly if you tread on Kaufman's toes

WE ALL experience those nightmare mental blanks as to the name of someone we know very well. But is Madam Speaker choosing with sufficient care the toes on which she treads?

scrutinised the order paper in advance for potential double entendres or sexual minefields. Every reply requiring the use of the word "moral" had been farmed out to his juniors...



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

Fimlico and another where he has not been unwelcome. A handful, really. Still, it cannot be said that our impish Foreign Secretary lacks pillows on which to lay his beard.

wished to ask a supplementary question, and rose to let Betty Boothroyd know. "Er... yes... you," the Speaker said. "Er... Kaufman," a clerk whispered. "Mr Kaufman!" she declared.

death row. But the majesty of his rising had been cruelly undermined by the manner of its prompting. Mr Kaufman (Lab. Manchester Gorton) is a dangerous enemy. It is widely (if unfairly) believed that it was his failure, once to get prompt service at the Crush Bar at Covent Garden that triggered the coruscating criticism of the Royal Opera Mr Kaufman has spearheaded as chairman of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport...

Miss B should watch out. Mr K, if I know him at all, will be in absolutely no hurry. Long after this little gaffe is forgotten, a devastating Kaufman plan to privatise the Speakership, sell the Chair on a lease-back contract, offer the Speaker's House for rent on the property market, tax the benefits that come with the job, and readvertise the post in open competition, will hit the British press during the quiet season in summer.

a hard-hitting Commons performer. It was he, yesterday, who rose after Mr Kaufman, catching Miss Boothroyd's eye. "Mr Lynn," she called, in his direction. "Or even Garnier," Mr Garnier hissed. "Ah, Garnier," she corrected herself.

Governments' blueprint may not be ideal but talks will now produce action

Parties to start work on detail of peace deal

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland's rival political parties agreed last night to start thrashing out the details of a settlement from next Monday despite Sinn Fein's deep unhappiness with the British and Irish Governments' new blueprint.

After a meeting of the eight parties at Stormont, George Mitchell, the talks chairman, announced that the participants had all undertaken to "proceed promptly to negotiations on real issues" for the first time since the talks began more than 18 months ago.

He said there were very serious differences between the parties, but he believed a settlement could be achieved by May's deadline. Only Sinn Fein was openly unhappy with the blueprint, unveiled on Monday. Its chairman, Mitchell McLaughlin, suggested that it was a retreat from the Governments' original proposals in the 1995 Framework Documents and a "sop" to intransigent Unionists and "loyalist street squads".

He said Sinn Fein would remain at the talks and test the Governments' position, but insisted it would never accept a partitionist settlement. "We are saying that there's no internal solution and there will be no return to partitionist rule," he declared.

The key for Sinn Fein is a powerful new body to develop cross-border co-operation, but Unionists fear this would be an embryonic all-Ireland government.

The Framework Documents said it would have executive powers and a capacity for growth. The new blueprint is more ambiguous.

In a bid to boost republican confidence in the peace process, seven more IRA prisoners are to be transferred from English to Irish jails as early as this week.

In another important gesture to republicans, Tony Blair is reportedly preparing to apologise next week for the events of Bloody Sunday in 1972 when British paratroopers killed 14 Catholic demonstrators.

It emerged yesterday that the two Governments' blueprint was the result of an extraordinary burst of diplomatic activity that began at an English Premiership football match.

On December 16 the parties had abandoned their attempt to agree an agenda. On December 21 Mr Blair met Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, at the Newcastle United v Manchester United game where they agreed the two Governments had to produce a blueprint of their own.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, tells Channel 4's Dispatches today that he would prefer RUC members not to be in the Orange Order or Apprentice Boy's.

Mary McAleese, the Irish President, arrives in England tonight on her first visit since taking office in November.



George Mitchell believes settlement over Northern Ireland can be achieved by the existing May deadline

Blair watches the big picture

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

THE latest advance in the stuttering progress towards a possible settlement of the Northern Ireland situation was beginning to take shape as Tony Blair, in traditional Japanese style, sat cross-legged in a restaurant in the ancient capital of Kamakura, on the coast southeast of Tokyo, on Saturday night.

There, as he ate raw beam and drank Kirin beer with his wife, close staff and the British Ambassador, Mr Blair was constantly having to take calls on a secure government mobile telephone in the corner of the room from Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland secretary, Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader.

Over the next 48 hours, Mr Blair spoke to Mr Ahern a further six times, Mr Trimble five, Dr Mowlam at least four and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, once. In his embassy Rolls-Royce, and at government and business offices across Tokyo, the Prime Minister was regularly being called by aides and key figures in the process.

A PLACE IN THE SUN

The Japanese Prime Minister today makes an extraordinary appeal to the British public to put aside past differences with his country and build for the future. Ryutaro Hashimoto has taken the unprecedented step of writing a signed article in The Sun. He strengthens the apology over the treatment of British POWs that was given to Mr Blair and calls for reconciliation.

There are always risks in such an approach, and Mr Blair inevitably found himself being questioned about personal troubles and his relations with the three most powerful men in his Government. Robin Cook, Jack Straw and Gordon Brown. But in public Mr Blair was philosophical about such matters, saying that he would rely on the country to judge him on the "big picture".

Tomorrow, Mr Blair will start his welfare road show in Birmingham. But in three weeks he will take Concorde across the Atlantic to see President Clinton. It will be surprising if his eye does not remain on the home front when he goes to Washington.

never worked and Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary and a former member of the pack, knew that better than anyone. There are always risks in such an approach, and Mr Blair inevitably found himself being questioned about personal troubles and his relations with the three most powerful men in his Government. Robin Cook, Jack Straw and Gordon Brown. But in public Mr Blair was philosophical about such matters, saying that he would rely on the country to judge him on the "big picture".

Tomorrow, Mr Blair will start his welfare road show in Birmingham. But in three weeks he will take Concorde across the Atlantic to see President Clinton. It will be surprising if his eye does not remain on the home front when he goes to Washington.

Miss Bassey said: "I pushed her. Usually when someone is hysterical, you slap them in the face. But I didn't slap her in the face. I pushed her. A push is a push not a hit. I did not hit her." Asked if she was drunk, she replied: "We'd all been drinking, we were all quite merry. But no one was drunk."

Hard-up council to pay staff in shop vouchers

BY MARK HENDERSON

A CASH-STRAPPED council plans to cut its costs by exploiting a lucrative loophole in National Insurance rules and pay its staff partly in supermarket vouchers.

Oxfordshire County Council hopes to free up hundreds of thousands of pounds to spend on services by offering its staff vouchers for their local Sainsbury's, Safeway or Marks and Spencer as part of their salary.

Under current rules, National Insurance contributions are calculated on the amount of cash paid out to staff, so employers can slice thousands from their bills by paying them in kind.

Councillors hope to move swiftly to pass the scheme in time for the next financial year because the loophole will be closed by a new law in April.

John Harewood, the Oxfordshire chief executive, said large sums could be released from the Department of Social Security's grasp for it to spend on roads and education.

If the scheme is approved by councillors, staff will be asked whether they would mind receiving some of their pay packets in their choice of supermarket vouchers.

The Contributions Agency Staff at hard-up Conwy council in north Wales may be asked to take five days' unpaid leave to save £250,000.

Shirley Bassey accused of assault

Continued from page 1 witness stand, putting on a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles. She gave her name as Shirley Veronica Bassey and her address as Monte Carlo, Monaco.

She vehemently denied hitting Miss Levy, and said she had tried to calm down her assistant because she had become hysterical. Asked if she had been waving her arms, she said: "I was pointing my finger at her, saying 'Don't you ever dare slam the door in my face again!'"

Asked if she had hit her, she replied: "No. I was waving my finger at her, and I was amazed when she said: 'Don't hit me. Don't hit me.' She was hysterical, she was screaming, and she was acting very strangely. All evening she had been acting it and I didn't know what was going on. I pushed her on the left shoulder with my right hand. I pushed her, and she said something like: 'You've hit me.' She said: 'Get out, get out.'"

"I said: 'You get out', then I realised that I was in her room, so I smiled, walked out, and said: 'You are a spoilt Jewish princess.'"

Miss Bassey said she would never dream of using an expression like "Jewish bitch". "I used the words 'Jewish princess'. That's a term for someone who is spoilt, and behaving like a prima donna. I've been called it by my managers."

She went on: "I've got Jewish managers, Jewish friends, Jewish boyfriends. I've got a daughter who is half-Jewish, and I'm not anti-semitic."

Miss Bassey said: "I pushed her. Usually when someone is hysterical, you slap them in the face. But I didn't slap her in the face. I pushed her. A push is a push not a hit. I did not hit her."

Asked if she was drunk, she replied: "We'd all been drinking, we were all quite merry. But no one was drunk."

Miss Bassey said: "We'd been together so long, we were mates; we had good times together. But leading up to South Africa, she was being very slack and not doing her job properly."

"There is a time before I go on stage when I concentrate my mind on my act, and she would come up and mention something that would take my mind off my work. She had a habit of doing that."

A judgment in the case is expected to be given today.

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# Priest in 'loving marriage' is accused of trying to kill wife

A jury has been told no motive has been discovered for a hospital chaplain's alleged attack with a hammer. Paul Wilkinson reports



## Father is cleared over baby death

By ADAM FRESCO

A ROYAL NAVY officer broke down in tears yesterday as he was cleared of killing his "precious little girl" when he shook her to stop her crying after a hard day at work.

Lieutenant Paul Chalmers, 29, admitted to police at the time that he shook five-month-old Sarah, who later died of brain damage, but subsequently said he had no recollection of it.

As he was cleared of manslaughter by a majority verdict at Bristol Crown Court, he hung his head in the dock and cried. His family and friends shouted in delight.

Lieutenant Chalmers, an Assistant Queen's Harbourmaster at Portland Naval Base, Dorset, returned to his home in Ilchester, Somerset, after "a very hard day", it was said. He told police that he had shaken Sarah after she woke and refused to go back to sleep.

The court was told that he said to officers: "I picked her up and I shook her. Not hard. I didn't think it was hard. It was two or three times, just to try and quieten her. It was just frustration."

His daughter, who had suffered a brain haemorrhage, died in Fenchway Hospital, Bristol, the next day after an unsuccessful emergency operation.

THE Rev Michael Golightly and his wife, Enid, appear to those who know them as a happy, loving couple. But yesterday the priest was accused in court of trying to kill Mrs Golightly by smashing her over the head with a hammer.

He maintains that her injury came from falling downstairs, perhaps hitting her head on the hammer which he had left on the floor. The couple still live together at the house in Durham City.

Ian Graham, for the prosecution, told a jury yesterday: "I cannot give you a motive for the crime." The priest was "a middle-aged, apparently respectable man, married for five years to a middle-aged, apparently respectable woman." They had both been married before.

"There was not a hint of discord or disharmony in their relationship," Mr Graham told Newcastle Crown Court. "They appeared a well-suited couple who seemed to have found a degree of happiness in middle age."

But evidence showed that her injuries could only have been caused by a blow from the ball-peen hammer, he said. Mrs Golightly suffered a single wound to her right temple. The blow was so forceful that it fractured her skull, driving shards of bone 30mm into her brain. Hair and blood was found on the hammer.

The priest denies attempting to murder his wife at their home in August 1996. He also denies an alternative charge of causing her grievous bodily harm with intent. Throughout the hearing Mr Golightly, dressed in a grey suit with a clerical collar and dark blue shirt, stared impassively ahead.

The priest, a chaplain with the North Durham Community Healthcare NHS Trust, told police that the hammer, which they found at the foot of the stairs, had been left out

after he had used it the previous day. But James Sumter, a Home Office pathologist, told the jury that the injuries could not have been caused by the fall or by her head striking the hammer as she fell. Dr Sumter described as bizarre a suggestion that the hammer was lying with its ball-peen uppermost. "I rule that out completely."

Mr Golightly had called for an ambulance at 4pm but Dr Sumter said that bloodstains on the bed, where the priest has said he placed his injured wife, suggested that she had lain there for several hours. Blood had soaked through two pillows and the bedding into the mattress, indicating that she had lain there, bleeding slowly, for a considerable period. Broken hair was found on the pillow.

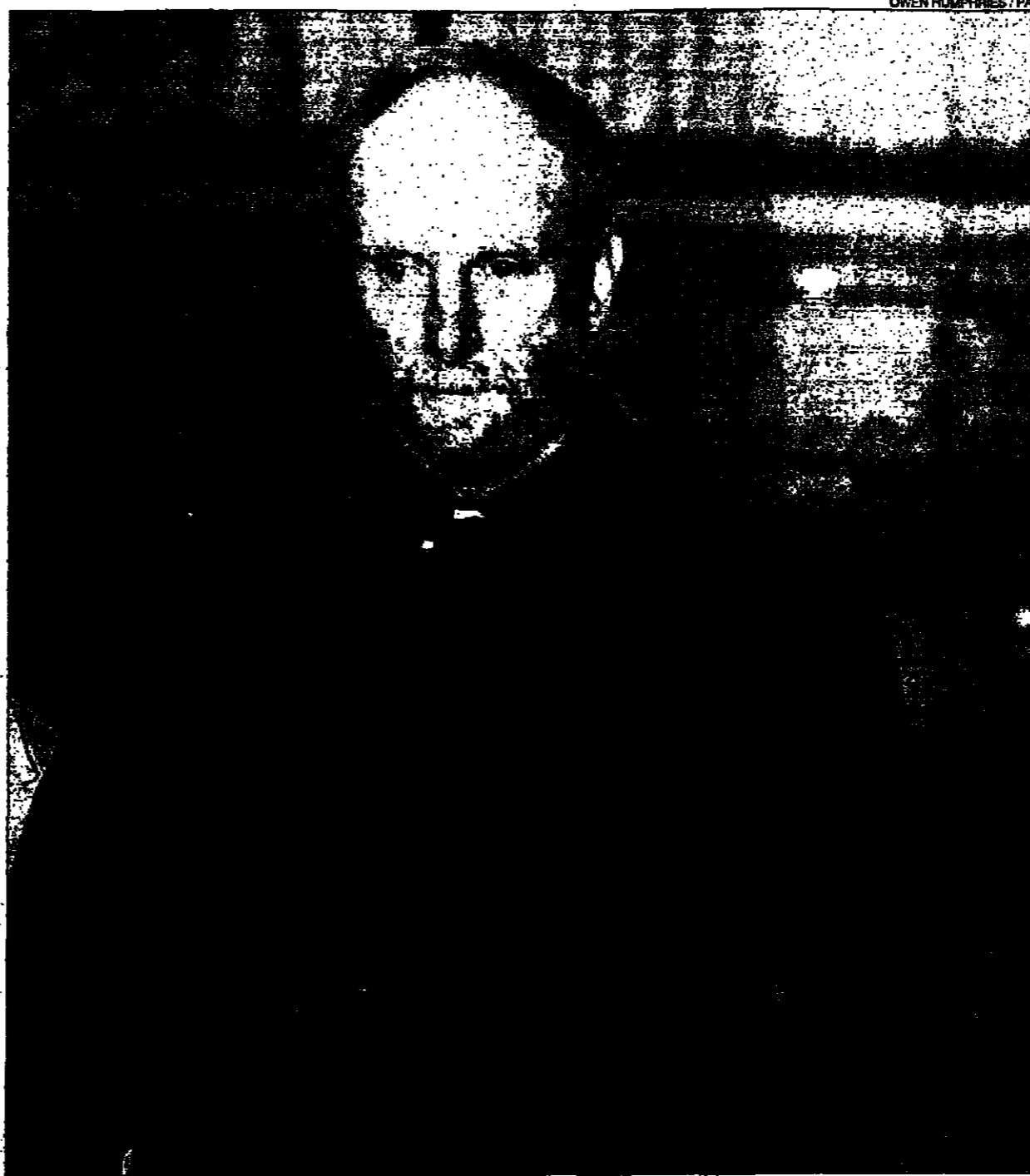
Congeaed blood near the stairs indicated that Mrs Golightly had attempted to crawl out of the bedroom before being dragged back in.

The evening before the incident the couple had entertained Gene Korter, a long-time friend of Mrs Golightly, who had left about 8pm. She told the jury that she had seen nothing disturbing about the relationship and Mr Golightly had kissed his wife warmly when he returned home at the end of the day.

The next day neighbours noticed that the curtains had remained drawn all day. The chaplain had told detectives that his wife had been unwell during the night and he had stayed at home with her the following day. She had stayed in bed and he had on occasions talked and read to her.

While he was out of the bedroom in the afternoon he had heard her call, followed by a thump. He found her lying at the foot of the stairs. He had carried her from the stairs into the bedroom but he believed that she had crawled or fallen off the bed as he dialled 999.

Mr Graham told the jury: "I cannot give you a motive for the crime. I cannot even suggest a reason as to why this defendant should strike his wife a mighty blow to her head. What the Crown can do is present to you the facts and invite you to draw the only conclusion possible, that this



The Rev Michael Golightly arriving at court yesterday. He told police that his wife, Enid, fell down stairs

defendant hit his wife a powerful blow on the head with the hammer at sometime, probably in the morning, with the intention of either killing her, or at the very least inflicting a really serious injury. There was no one else in the house, so you can rule out another party.

"No other explanation is available other than this injury was caused by a deliberate blow and the only person who could have done it was Michael Golightly himself."

Irene Carr, a retired nursing assistant who had known Mrs Golightly since their schooldays, said: "They seemed happily married and shared many interests, particularly cookery."

The case continues.

## Italians squeal over the right to slice

By PETER FOSTER AND RICHARD OWEN

DOES a side of Scottish beef cease being Scottish if it is carved in Scotland? Or does a bottle of champagne turn into sparkling wine if drunk in Chipping Sodbury?

The Italian producers of Parma ham seem to think so. Yesterday the Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma started a High Court action to stop Asda slicing and packaging Parma hams for sale in Britain.

Yesterday lawyers from both sides were locked in abstract legal argument at the High Court in London. According to the Italians, Parma ham is protected under an Italian law that guards against imitations. Asda argued that the law had not been incorporated into EC legislation and so was not enforceable in this country.

Asda's ham is produced using Parma pigs according to a traditional method by Fiorricci, one of the largest producers and a member of the Consorzio. To confuse matters the company, according to the Italians, can slice and sell Parma ham in its in-store delicatessen without risk of legal confrontation.

The Consorzio office explained that Parma's ham had recently been granted membership of the Di Origine Controlato (DOC), an exclusive club for the best food and wine producers in Italy. The DOC stamp is much sought-after and each Parma ham is cut and packed under the watch of DOC inspectors before packets can receive the Consorzio's imprimatur. As a result, the Consorzio guards its status jealously and takes decisive legal action against anyone found bending the rules. The hearing continues.

## Missing Luxor victim found in German grave

By ADRIAN LEE

THE missing body of Karina Turner, one of the British victims of the Luxor massacre, has been found in a grave in Germany. The remains of the 24-year-old air stewardess were identified through dental records, and DNA tests after they were exhumed by the German authorities.

Miss Turner, her mother, Joan, 53, and daughter, Shauna, 5, died when Muslim fanatics opened fire at the temple of Queen Hatshepsut on November 17, killing 58 tourists. A joint funeral service for the three, at Ripponden, West Yorkshire, had to be postponed when it was realised that two bodies sent back from Egypt were not those of Miss Turner and her mother.

The elder woman's body was found in Zurich. It is believed that a body sent to Britain after the shooting, and wrongly identified by the Egyptian authorities as that of Miss Turner, is that of a German victim. Miss Turner's uncle, police



Karina Turner died with mother and daughter

Inspector Kenneth Robertshaw, said: "We are relieved that the authorities have located the body of Karina and await her return to the UK. Obviously, it will take some time for the legal procedures to be completed, but we will then be able to lay all three members of the family to rest. The news is a great relief to all of us."

## Teacher accused of murder to protect legacy

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

A WIDOWED piano teacher drowned her elderly aunt in a river because the cost of keeping her in a residential home was draining away her inheritance, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Sheila Bowler, 68, then allegedly covered up the murder of 89-year-old former War Office clerk Florence Jackson, who depended on a walking frame to get around, by pretending that she must have walked a quarter of a mile in the dark before accidentally falling into the River Brede near Winchelsea, East Sussex.

Mrs Bowler, who denies murder, claimed that she had left Mrs Jackson in her car while she went to get help for a flat tyre. The jury was told that Mrs Bowler, from Rye, East Sussex, was convicted of murder at Hove Crown Court in 1993. But the conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal last year after new medical evidence emerged, and a retrial was ordered. Mrs Jackson, the aunt of

Mrs Bowler's late husband, Robert, 73, had taken up residence at Greyfriars, a local authority home near Winchelsea, in December 1991. Her only asset was a small flat in Rye, which she had shared with her sister, Lillian, who died the previous month, and which she was leaving in her will to her niece.

Mrs Bowler held power of attorney and was responsible for arranging payment of £252 a week to keep Mrs Jackson in the home. By the time of her drowning in May 1992, arrears of over £3,500 had built up and the local authority, which took the value of the flat into account in assessing her payments, required that it be sold to raise the money.

Anthony Glass, QC, for the prosecution, said: "Mrs Bowler had a financial interest in the death of her late husband's elderly aunt. Every month she continued to live, the value of Mrs Bowler's inheritance diminished." The trial continues.

## Fleeing pigs save their bacon

By BILL HOFFMANN

TWO young pigs remained at large last night after escaping from the abattoir minutes before they were due to be slaughtered.

Their getaway, including a swim across fast-flowing water, has impressed police and animal behaviourists. A police spokesman said: "These were two porkers determined not to end up as breakfast bacon and they pulled off a great escape."

Their adventure began last Thursday as three five-month-old Ginger Tamworth boars went to market at Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Arriving at the abattoir, one animal met his fate without incident. But the other two



Tamworth pigs have strong survival instincts

wriggled free, leading their captors on a ten-minute chase around the slaughterhouse. The two then squeezed through a fence, trotted to

the banks of the River Avon and swam to the other side. They hid in nearby woodland, evading a posse of police and locals. Harry Clarke, one resident who spotted the escapees, said: "They were lovely animals. They were a very ginger colour and vanished very quickly and stealthily in the undergrowth. We had pork chops that day and I felt very guilty."

Peter Neville, an animal behaviour expert, called the Ginger Tamworth breed "real survivors, renowned for their escape bids. Some modern pigs bred just for meat have lost much of their common sense, but not the Tamworth. They should survive well in the wild." Police gave chase yesterday to two cubs capable of speeds of 30mph after they escaped from their pen in Broadstairs, Kent. Last night one was still at large.

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# Camelot accused of 'gambling on bribery'

### Court is told of 'desperate' attempt to persuade Branson to drop his bid for lottery, writes Joanna Bale

A DIRECTOR of Camelot attempted to bribe Richard Branson to withdraw his bid to run the National Lottery as they sat over lunch in a gamble that did not pay off, the High Court was told yesterday.



Guy Snowden was said to be "a desperate man"

his dream, the jewel in the crown — the UK National Lottery.

Opening Mr Branson's libel case against Mr Snowden and GTech, who have accused Mr Branson of lying about the incident, George Carman, QC, said: "The gaming industry generally, and the lottery industry in particular, might suitably have as a motto 'take a chance'. Much of this case is about an occasion in 1993 which we shall submit Guy Snowden took a fateful chance ... We say it is a gamble that did not pay off."

"Mr Snowden's eyes were firmly fixed, you might think, on the profits which would be made for GTech, and the money which would be made for him personally as a shareholder in GTech ... The UK lottery was the jewel in the crown. It was the largest lottery in the world. In order to obtain that glittering prize we submit that Mr Guy Snowden would leave no stone unturned to win the bid."

Mr Carman said Mr



Richard Branson at the High Court yesterday with his wife, Joan, and father, Ted. The tycoon jotted down a note of the conversation with Mr Snowden on a piece of paper

Branson wanted all profits to go to charity, while Mr Snowden wanted all the profits to go to the operator. "Mr Branson's own view of that was that it was a virtual licence to print money because it was a business without any real risk and a guaranteed profit ... That was the yawning gap between the two men and their motives."

Mr Carman then described

how Mr Branson invited Mr Snowden to lunch at his home in Holland Park, West London, to discuss the possibility of GTech providing gaming equipment for his bid. Also present at the lunch was Mr Branson's lottery bid advisor John Jackson. Mr Snowden was already involved with rival bidders Camelot. The court was told that during the lunch Mr Snowden failed to

persuade Mr Branson to drop his bid or to join Camelot.

Mr Carman said: "Mr Snowden is dealing with a man he knows is a very very successful businessman and he's worried, concerned and maybe, you may think, somewhat desperate."

"Guy Snowden then said this: 'I don't know how to phrase this Richard. There is always a bottom line. I'll get to

the point. In what way can we help you?' And then there was a pause. 'I mean, what can I do for you personally?'"

Mr Carman went on: "Richard Branson will tell you he was absolutely astonished. He did not believe what he had just heard. John Jackson was equally astonished. After an ugly moment of silence Richard Branson said, 'What on earth do you mean?' and Mr

Snowden said, 'Everybody needs something.'

"Richard Branson said, 'Thank you very much. I'm quite successful. I only need one breakfast, one lunch and one dinner a day.'"

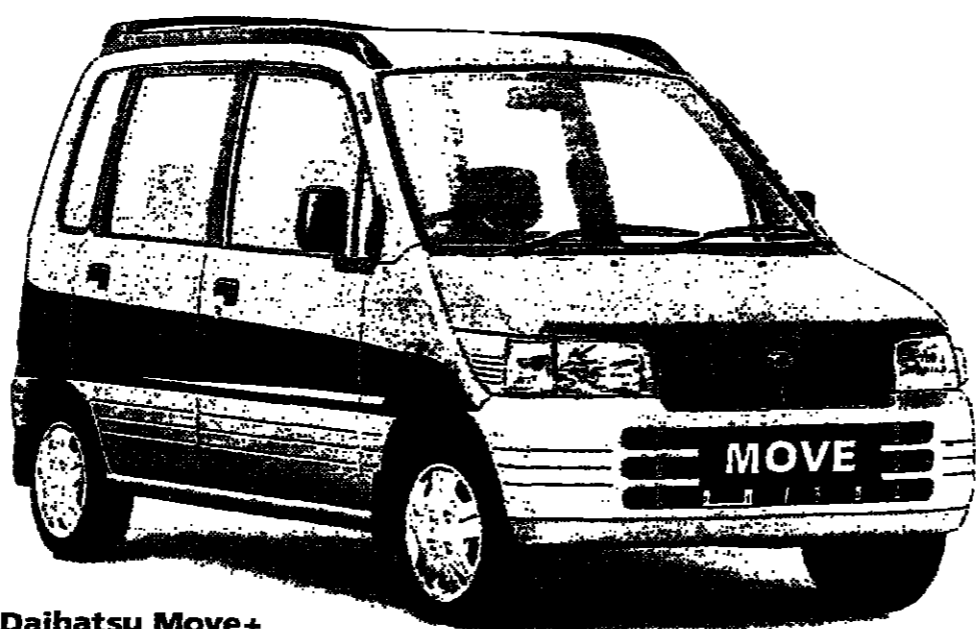
The court was told that Mr Branson went to the lavatory and jotted down a note of the conversation on a piece of paper. Mr Carman said that Mr Branson and Mr Jackson

were in no doubt about the offer of a bribe.

"There is no shilly-shallying about this, no room for doubt or misunderstanding or misinterpretation. It is as plain as a pikestaff that what Guy Snowden was about that day was floating a bribe before Richard Branson to pave the way for GTech to go on without this dangerous rival."

The case continues.

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## Paedophile killer tricked social worker

By Shirley English

A PAEDOPHILE persuaded his "over-confident" social worker to reduce his home visits to a token level then went on to abduct and murder a nine-year-old boy, it was claimed yesterday.

An independent report into the events leading to the murder last July of Scott Simpson, from Aberdeen, concluded that his killer, Steven Leisk, 34, was inadequately supervised by social services even though he had four previous convictions for sex offences against children and had been living opposite a children's park since his release from prison in December 1996.

Under national guidelines his social worker was meant to visit him fortnightly throughout a nine-month supervision order set by the courts, but it emerged that when the killer strangled Scott he had not been visited for almost two months.

Leisk, a former medical orderly who served in the Falklands campaign, admitted Scott's abduction and murder at his trial last November and was jailed for life with a recommendation he serve a

minimum of 25 years. Yesterday, publishing the findings of his social services report, James McManus, Scottish Prisons Complaints Commissioner, said there had been a "clear failure" by an unnamed social worker. This had been exacerbated by structural problems in the way paedophiles were sentenced by the courts and then supervised by social services.

He said that a "well-qualified, experienced and committed" social worker had failed to meet minimum standards. Leisk had been able to deceive him because of his "over-confidence".

Scott went missing after a football game in the park near his home in the Powis area of Aberdeen. A police search involving 100 officers followed but his body was only found five days later after a tip-off. Leisk had strangled him with a scarf.

Yesterday, Ian Oliver, Chief Constable of Grampian Police, announced an independent review into the way his force handled the inquiry. The body was found dumped in bushes which had already been searched by police.

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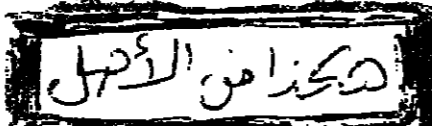
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# Gentle humorist whose wit was based on kindness

Frank Muir had the last laugh, writes Alan Hamilton

OUR most elegant humorist, Frank Muir, was laid to rest yesterday on a bright winter's day, as kindly as his humour, and with gentle laughter rippling over his flower-decked coffin.

Two hundred mourners packed the tiny parish church of St Mary in the quiet, affluent Surrey village of Thorpe, where Mr Muir and his wife, Polly, lived for more than 40 years, until his death last Friday at the age of 77.

They came to grieve at the passing of a great and kindly wit, and to have their spirits raised by a eulogy from Denis Norden, his writing partner for 51 years. In all those years, Mr Norden said, he could not recall Frank Muir ever stepping out of character — the character of kindness. As well as permeating his life, it carried over into his comedy: Muir had firmly believed that laughter was essentially a kindly human characteristic.

In five decades of successful comedy writing, the two had grown almost as close as a married couple, and had developed the skills of non-verbal communication. "You have no idea how many witty remarks I was glanced," Mr Norden said, prompting a ripple of laughter.

Yet they were utterly different in character. While Mr Muir laughed during rehearsals, Mr Norden was the miserable one, constantly worrying. A mutual friend once remarked: "Frank only worries to be sociable."

Mr Norden said their close friendship was not of the effusive kind. "Frank and I were never what you would call folksome with each other. We never went in for *This Is Your Life*-type greetings — forearm clapping and manly hugging. But over my life span, he did occupy a place special beyond words."

To illustrate the point, Mr Norden quoted from a letter between two other successful writing partners, P.G. Wodehouse and Guy Bolton. "There are not many people who really mean anything in one's life, and it's no use pretending there are," Wodehouse wrote

to his Broadway musical collaborator. "With animals, it's different."

And then, from Sam Johnson on the death of a close friend: "Howmuchsoever I valued him, I now wish I had valued him more."

The eulogy would have been incomplete without a couple of examples of Mr Muir's facility for elegant punning. On the last programme they did together, in October, 1997, they were discussing how *Round The Horne* had broken new ground in radio comedy, as it was allowed to dwell on hitherto unmentionable subjects. "It could be said to be the first radio show to have been given *carte blanche*," Mr Muir commented. And, on hearing that the tin opener had been invented by a Frenchman in 1812, Mr Muir remarked: "Ah, the 1812 Overture."

Frank Muir always harboured a secret desire to be remembered for his prose style, an ambition he may have achieved with the publication of his autobiography, *A Kentish Lad*. His son, Jamie, read from it one of his father's rare whinges: "It would have been nice for me, still the breadwinner in my late 70s, to have emerged from the struggle just a little bit rich."

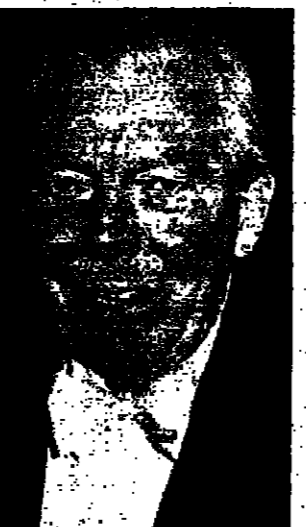
Among the congregation was the comedy actress June Whitfield, who brought to life one of Mr Muir's and Mr Norden's earliest and most enduring comic creations, Eth, in *The Gnomes*.

At the end of the service, part-Anglican and part-Roman Catholic to reflect the different faiths of Frank and Polly Muir, the hearse bore his coffin, unaccompanied, to Woking Crematorium.

He could not resist departing this world without a joke. At the bottom of the Order of Service was printed another irresistible pun: "Many are cold, but few are frozen."



Norden, left, said the essential characteristic of Muir, his writing partner of 51 years, was his kindness



The Ven Alexander Knight: "ideal experience" in marriage guidance counselling

# Cold comfort for dean who hopes to end cathedral row

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE new Dean of Lincoln yesterday stepped into the 12th-century Gothic cathedral that has been the centre of so much scandal and controversy recently and pronounced: "It's bloomin' cold."

The Ven Alexander Knight, 58, currently Archdeacon of Basingstoke as well as a residentiary canon of Winchester Cathedral, was yesterday announced as the man chosen by Tony Blair and appointed by the Queen to calm the waters at the troubled cathedral.

Canon Knight, known as a down-to-earth diplomat, had visited the cathedral incognito a few weeks ago. He was back yesterday to meet the clergy and staff for the first time. He said that, as an eternal optimist, he intended to draw a line under the cathedral's stormy past.

Canon Knight is described by those who know him as a "team player", a view with which he concurs. He said his first task would be to get to know all who work in and around the cathedral.

He said he had made no detailed study of the long-running dispute between Dr Brandon Jackson, the former Dean, now retired, and Canon Rex Davis, the Sub-Dean. However, he said he was aware of the difficulties that had been a feature of the cathedral for the past eight years and which stemmed from an exhibition in Australia of the cathedral's Magna Carta, which cost the it £56,000.

Married with four children and an active member of the General Synod, with a special interest in the way schools communicate Christian values and ideals, Canon Knight described himself as a middle-of-the-road church-

man who believed in the importance of reason, scripture, evangelism and tradition.

He said his aim was to get the cathedral off the front pages of the newspapers and on to pages six or seven instead, with reports about the positive work being done there, such as with the musical tradition and the maintenance of the fabric.

He declined to comment on the cathedral's past, which led to Dr Jackson's resignation last summer after the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, described his constant disputes with Canon Davis as a "scandal dishonouring the Lord".

Dr Carey had asked both Dr Jackson and Canon Davis to go, but Canon Davis has indicated he will not resign. Canon Knight said yesterday that it was not his place to put any pressure on Canon Davis to do the Archbishop's wishes. "That remains a matter for the Archbishop," he said.

Canon Knight, who trained for the priesthood at Wales Theological College, went up first to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, to study natural sciences but switched to theology part-way through his degree. He served a curacy in Hemel Hempstead, was then a school chaplain and went on to become a parish priest near Winchester before being promoted to Archdeacon of Basingstoke in 1990.

He is expected to take up his new job in the spring. Canon Knight was thought to have been considered ideal for the job because of his expertise in working with warring couples through his experience as a married guidance counsellor in the diocese.

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# Pair deny part in Docklands blast that ended IRA ceasefire

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

TWO men died instantly when the IRA lorry bomb at Docklands that ended the 18-month-old ceasefire blasted them through two walls. The Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The detonation of several tons of homemade explosive in February 1996 injured several others and caused damage estimated at £150 million. One victim had 300 stitches in her face and another suffered complete memory loss.

Opening the case against two men accused of taking part in the bomb plot, John Bevan, QC, for the prosecution, said that the attack had been an atrocity. The bomb went off as thousands were leaving work and the warnings were inadequate and inaccurate. "It is little short of a miracle that others were not killed," he added.

"Inaccurate and, from the point of view of timing, wholly inadequate warnings were given by telephone to a number of people.

"Those warnings did not begin to give the police sufficient time to warn and evacuate the many thousands of people at work and leaving work in the area," Mr Bevan told the jury.

The bombing brought to an end the 18-month "cessation" by the IRA of their campaign of bombing targets in Northern Ireland and on the mainland.



South Quay: damage was put at £150 million

blast left a crater 32ft wide and 10ft deep. Debris was scattered 300 yards and one piece was found on the roof of a building.

James McCardle, 30, from Crossmaglen, Co Armagh and Patrick McKinley, 34 from Mullaghbawn, near Newry, Co Down, deny conspiracy to cause an explosion. Mr McCardle also denies the murder of the two men, John Jeffries, 31, and Inan Bashir, 29.

Mr Bevan told the court the bomb was hidden in a former British Gas Ford lorry. The flatbed had been converted

into a low-loader for carrying vehicles.

It was not suggested, he said, that Mr McKinley was even in the country when the bomb went off. He was at home in Armagh. He did not take part in a dummy run three weeks before the blast when the lorry was brought over to Carlisle.

He had a role in converting the lorry into "a mobile bomb masquerading as a vehicle transporter," Mr Bevan added.

But he said Mr McCardle's fingerprints, thumbprint and palmprint had been discovered and connected him to the dummy run and the bombing. Mr Bevan said he was a central figure playing a crucial role in the delivery of the bomb to South Quay in London's Docklands.

The court was told that the bomb exploded at 6.59pm on Friday, February 9, after the lorry containing the bomb was parked close to the wall of a newsagent on South Quay where the dead men worked.

A police officer who was on the scene had told the men to leave. They did not act immediately and within a few minutes they were killed. They told the policeman they would leave, but first they wanted to get their van.

Mr Bevan said: "Maybe after 18 months of peace it was still unreasonable for anyone



Patrick McKinley, left, and James McCardle, who deny involvement in the bomb attack in February 1996

to assume bombing would start again without a proper adequate warning."

It took several days to recover the men's bodies. They had been blown through two walls and into the next shop but one from their own.

Three members of a Moroccan family called Berezag were also near by in their car when the bomb went off. They were waiting to be given permission to get through the police cordon.

Mr Bevan said they were 40 yards from the crater and were hit by several pieces of shrapnel. The father lost his

memory and is only now beginning to make a recovery. His 17-year-old son received facial injuries and a perforated eardrum.

Other people were also hit by flying glass and shrapnel. One, Barbara Osei, had to have 300 stitches to her face and one eye was injured by material from the blast.

Yesterday three large pieces of metal recovered by police from the bomb vehicle were shown to the jury. They were told that no trace of the vehicle remained in the bomb crater, but police recovered a skip full of debris and 20 boxes of

smaller material. The police issued an artist's impression of the bomb lorry and three days after the explosion were called to an industrial estate in Barking, East London, ten miles from Canary Wharf.

A man had seen a lorry with a trailer on it parked there on the morning of the bombing. The trailer was still there and the police also found rubbish which could be linked to the lorry.

This included tachograph records and a parking stub which showed the vehicle travelling via Stranraer, Carlisle, Manchester and the South

Mirms service area in Hertfordshire on the motorway network.

Mr Bevan said the finds — in wasteland — were fortunate. The reason why the various items and the trailer were left behind in Barking "remains a mystery," he added.

Mr Bevan said that perhaps the bombers had never thought police would make a link between the rubbish and the bomb, but the material led to Mr McKinley's premises in Northern Ireland and to Mr McCardle. The trial continues.

## IN BRIEF Manager jailed for possessing firearms

A shop manager has been sentenced to two years in prison after admitting possessing a sawn-off shotgun, Peter Pennington, 38, also admitted having a .22 calibre pistol at his home in Alton, Hampshire. Winchester Crown Court was told that Pennington, who had appeared as a television extra in *EastEnders*, had found the guns behind a tree.

### Don't believe it

The writer who created the comedy character Victor Meldrew ten years ago has denied that he is killing him off. David Renwick said that he was taking a break from *One Foot in the Grave*, but said there would be a future series.

### Family lies

Steven Hulatt, 28, of Birkenhead, Wirral, was jailed for three months for perverting the course of justice. He had given his brother's name when convicted of stealing chocolate, to avoid arrest for an unpaid fine.

### Riding death

A British student has died in a riding accident in Australia the day after she became engaged to a local driving instructor. Mandy Weeks, 23, from Devon, was thrown from her horse on Magnetic Island, off Queensland.

### Roast limb

A pensioner taking a nap woke up to find that his false leg had caught fire. The unnamed man fell asleep in front of an open fire at his home in Hutton Bonville, North Yorkshire. He was not hurt, but the limb was badly damaged.

### Loan blown

A man persuaded his wife to remortgage her house to buy a pub lease, then spent almost all the £30,000 loan on a week's high living. Norwich Crown Court was told: Richard Taylor, 37, was jailed for two years and nine months.

### Dud Czechs

A bogus invoicing company bit off more than it could chew when it billed its latest victim — the police. The Czech firm, which charges businesses £370 for inclusion in a non-existent directory, sent the invoice to Sussex Police.

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## GP to contest speeding fine

By Bill Hoffmann

A DOCTOR who broke the speed limit while rushing to attend a dying patient has been fined £40 and had her licence endorsed with three penalty points. She is to contest the penalty.

Anna Biddle, 55, from Locks Heath, Hampshire, was caught by a police camera driving at 51mph through morning rush-hour traffic in a 30mph zone along the A27 at Sarisbury. She had been speeding to reach Tina Randall, 30, who had collapsed from chest pains at her home in Warsash. Despite emergency treatment, the patient later died.

"At that hour of the morning an ambulance would have taken longer and I had emergency equipment in my car," Dr Biddle said. "It raises the question: next time, do I risk being sued by the family for not attending promptly, or do I risk another fine? Eventually I could be disqualified from driving just for doing my job."

Linda Millington, a spokesman for the British Medical Association, said: "Technically there are no exemptions for doctors, even when they are answering dire emergencies. However, we believe the police should take into account the circumstances."

## Something strange lurks at heart of our galaxy

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

TEN or more "strange stars" of unimaginable density are located within our galaxy, according to a physicist.

Vladimir Usov, of the Weizmann Institute in Israel, believes that they belong to a new class of star made up almost entirely of quarks, the smallest building blocks of matter.

The stars, of which one cubic centimetre weighs about a billion tons, are thought to exist throughout the universe but may previously have been taken for black holes or neutron stars.

The idea of strange stars was put forward in 1984 by

Edward Witten, of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, who argued that they might be produced when a star explodes to form a supernova at the end of its life.

The core collapses to form what was assumed to be a neutron star or black hole. Professor Witten proposed that when neutron matter was sufficiently dense, it could be converted into quark matter, and the types of quark known as strange would be the basis of the new type of star — hence strange star.

Now Professor Usov has worked out how to distinguish a strange star from a

neutron star. It would, he says, emit X-rays of an energy ten to 100 times greater, and in pulses of one millisecond each. It would also release high-energy gamma rays.

He has identified one strong candidate, an X-ray source lying close to the centre of our galaxy, known by its catalogue name, 1E1740.7-2942. Until now that has been thought to be a black hole.

He believes that up to 1 per cent of neutron stars may in fact be strange stars. There are about 1,000 objects classed as neutron stars in our galaxy, so ten or so may be strange stars.

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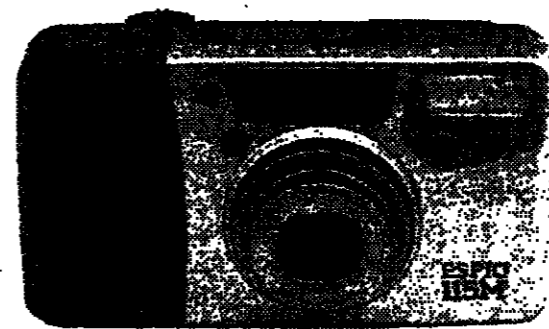
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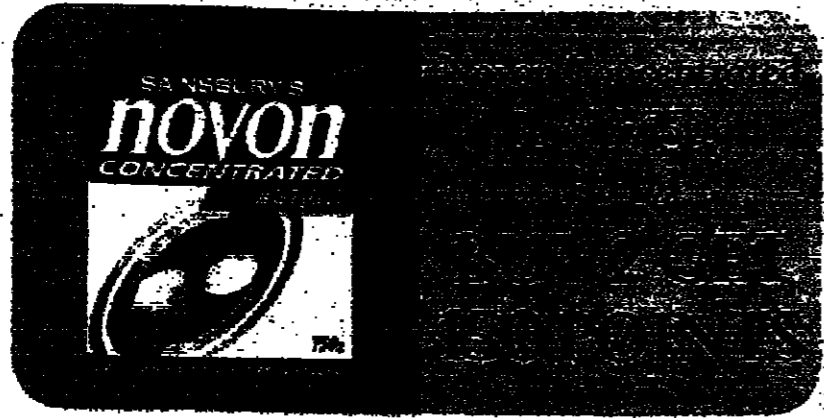
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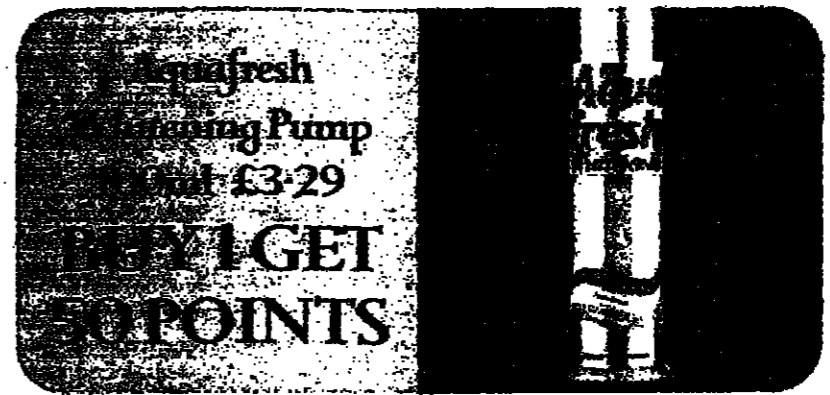
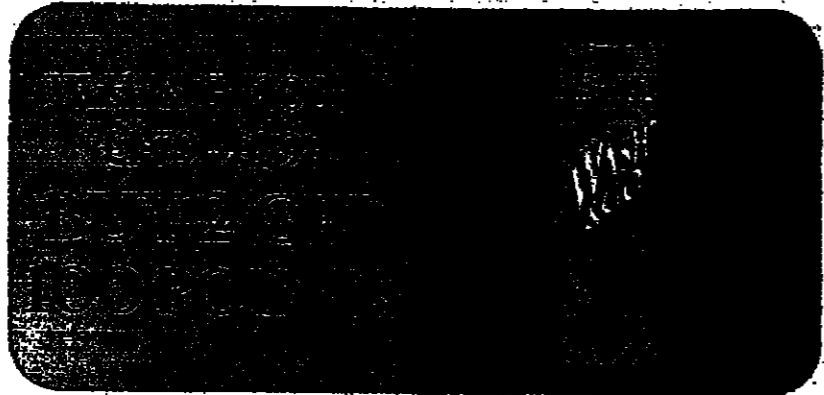
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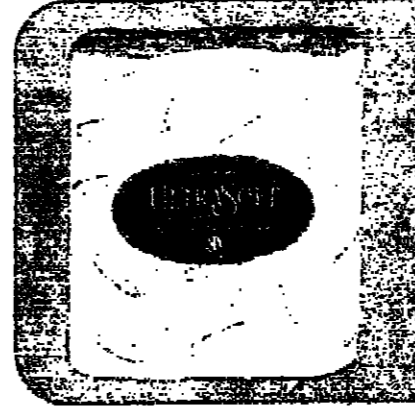
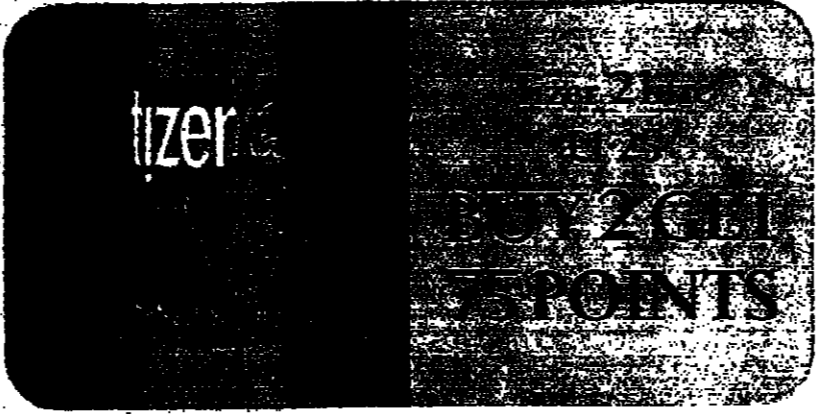
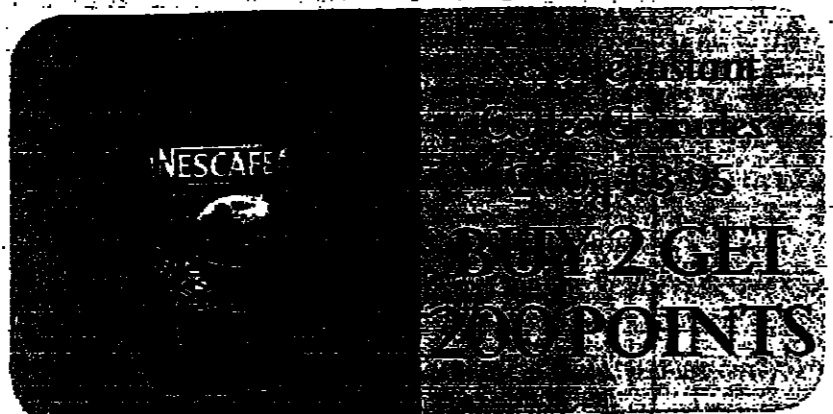


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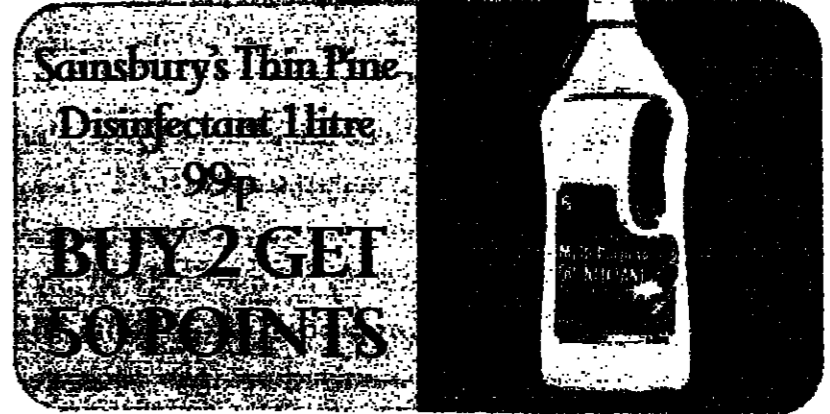
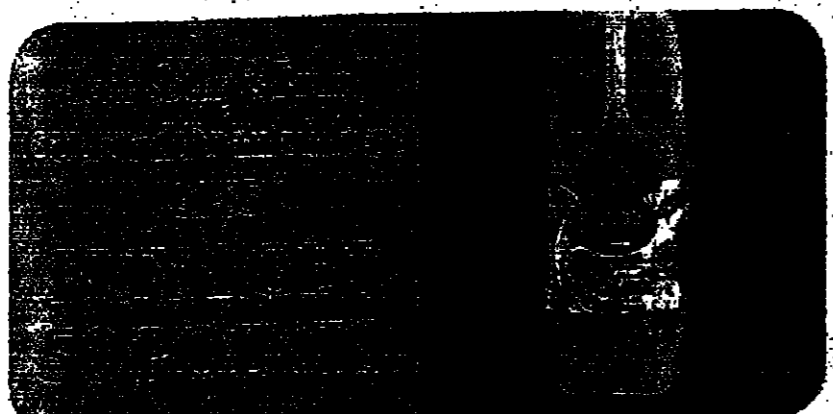


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# Short faces battle to stop Forces taking under-18s

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A CABINET row is looming over attempts by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, to end the recruitment of under-18s to the Armed Forces. She wants the Government to sign up to a United Nations protocol that aims to keep all children out of military service and away from armed conflict. But George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, is resisting the move on the basis that Britain needs to keep up recruitment at age 16 and 17 to ensure that Britain maintains a strong fighting force. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that most recruits were aged over 18, but those aged 16 (of which there are 945) and 17 (4,480) were kept away from areas of conflict and did not serve on the front line until after their 18th birthday. Instead the young recruits spent their time training in skills that would be

essential to their military career. A senior Whitehall source confirmed last night that the issue was "bubbling". The intervention by Ms Short follows her decision to host a conference in Britain in the spring to highlight the issue of children around the world who are caught up in armed conflict. The source said: "It makes it very difficult for us to point out to countries like Zimbabwe and Zambia to keep young people from a military environment when our own Armed Forces recruit at 16 or 17. The MoD argument is that the youngsters do not fight, they are trained, but this is semantics. They are still being given military discipline and a military culture even if they are not sent to the front line." Ms Short is well aware of the strength of the opposition she faces. One official said:

"The minister is anxious not to get caught up in a *cause célèbre*. But her argument is that she is determined to offer practical help to children who are caught up in conflict. The use of children in war is against all human rights legislation." As part of Britain's presidency of the European Union, Ms Short has signalled that one forum for discussion will be a joint Overseas Development Institute and EU Humanitarian Office conference on humanitarian principles on April 7. Her Department for International Development is also keen to arrange a meeting with Graca Machel, widow of the former Mozambique President Samara Machel, and now consort of Nelson Mandela, who wrote a disturbing report for the UN about the plight of children caught up in armed conflict. Her work on the subject



Young soldiers: the MoD says that no recruits under 18 are sent to the front line. They spend their time training

prompted the UN to appoint Olara Otunnu, from the Ivory Coast, as the new Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict. Britain has pledged £200,000 to support his work and is keen to encourage other EU countries to put up funds. Among the areas where money is being directed are northern Uganda, where resistance fighters have been

making cross-border skirmishes into Sudan and abducting young children, some as young as five and six, and forcing them to work. Boys are taught to fight and many girls are sexually abused. Relief workers are helping to reunite families and are also counselling the children to help them to get over their experiences. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, boys and

girls from the age of ten are being enlisted as child soldiers. The Government is funding projects where rebel forces are persuaded to release children and to allow them to be helped in special civilisation centres. The children have great difficulty readjusting after being forced to take part in ritual abuse and killings. Often too they have been drugged to

commit atrocities and are used to the glamour of a gun. Children caught up in the Afghanistan conflict, many of whom are victims of landmines, are also being helped. The Government has committed £150,000 to children in Khabul orphanages. Parents who fall victim to landmines are forced to hand over their children because they can no longer cope.

## Labour gets to work on the Lords

By JAMES LANDALE

THE Government agreed a timetable yesterday for the biggest constitutional reform of Parliament for half a century when ministers held their first detailed discussions about changing the House of Lords. The new Cabinet committee on Lords reform, chaired by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, agreed a working programme to carry out Labour's manifesto pledge to transform the second chamber for the 21st Century. Traditionally, the Government does not comment on the work of Cabinet committees. But officials said it had agreed a "programme of work". The committee will initially frame a Bill to fulfil Labour's manifesto pledge to scrap the voting and sitting rights of hereditary peers. The measure is likely to be introduced in the Queen's Speech next autumn. The committee will also be considering changes to transform the second chamber into a senate with a substantial number of elected members.

## Reforms team must aim for the right goal

THE Government is in danger of getting House of Lords reform the wrong way round. The new Cabinet committee which started work yesterday — one of the cluster chaired by the Lord Chancellor — is focusing on the composition of the Upper House, starting with the abolition of the rights of hereditary peers to sit and vote. But important though this is, it is a secondary matter. The primary question is the powers and role of a second chamber and its place in the broader programme of constitutional reform now under way.

The failure to provide an adequate answer to this question has, after all, been the main reason why past proposals for Lords reform — in 1888, 1910-11, 1919, 1948 and 1967-68 — have all foundered. Any significant change in composition would inevitably strengthen the legitimacy and authority of the second chamber, but this has never been acceptable to the Commons.

Labour has been publicly silent on these matters. Its focus has been almost entirely on the anachronism of hereditary peers, and a second stage of consultation and discussion about the long-term composition of the House. No one in Government has talked about how the House's role should then change. The Blairites seem mainly interested in having a House of Lords without its present huge bias in favour of the Tories created by the existence of the hereditary peers. In a favourite term of "new Labour", the aim is a level playing field — even though the Government is not seeking a majority in the entirely nominated House that would exist as an interim stage before long-term reform. But changing either to a nominated House or, in the long term, to a "democratic and representative second chamber", as envisaged by the Labour and Liberal Democrat joint statement last March, would inevitably raise questions about the role of the Lords. The status quo is not sustainable.

A reformed Lords could have a key role in the new constitutional framework now being created by the Government. Could such a second

chamber assume a special role as a constitutional guarantor and check on the Commons, as occurs in some other countries with bicameral systems? Should the Lords be a regionally based chamber in what may be a federal structure for Britain? Would a reformed Lords have a special role in overseeing the European Convention of Human Rights or in relation to the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly? On constitutional measures, would a reformed Lords be able to veto actions by the Commons? At present, the Lords can only delay a measure passed by the Commons for one session, with the key exception that it can block any Bill to extend the life of a Parliament and delay a general election.

Labour has so far been reluctant to discuss these broader questions. At present, the Government is proceeding in a piecemeal way. Lord Irvine of Lairg argues that, in his role as chairman of the

**RIDDELL ON POLITICS**

Cabinet's main constitutional committees, he is personally supplying the necessary coordination to ensure that measures are consistent with each other. The Government argues that not only is it pressing ahead rapidly with an ambitious series of constitutional proposals, as it is, but that change is bound to be step-by-step, rather than big bang, as happened with tax reform and privatisation in the 1980s. But that is not the point. Current changes inevitably have knock-on effects. Devolution, a Bill of Rights and freedom of information legislation are all steps towards a more formal, written constitution that limits the power of the Westminster Parliament and establishes rights for other institutions. The Government is reluctant to raise these implications. But the promised public debate about the future of the Lords should consider its role as a check and balance in this new constitutional structure.

PETER RIDDELL

## MPs launch bid to save anti-hunt Bill

MPs WILL today begin an attempt to save the anti-hunting Bill after Tony Blair's refusal to give it government time in the Commons (James Landale writes).

They plan to exploit parliamentary procedures to secure extra debating time in the hope of preventing the Bill being talked out by pro-hunting MPs. Although their chances of success are slim, they could manage to send it to the Lords. Even if they fail, the anti-hunting MPs will be more able to blame the Bill's death on the filibustering of their opponents rather than on the Government's refusal to allow it parliamentary time.

The Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, introduced by Michael Foster (Lab, Worcester) received its second

reading in November by 411 votes to 151. But without government time it had been expected to be killed in March.

Anti-hunting MPs on the committee considering the Bill, which meets today, are now trying to win extra time by blocking the progress of other Private Member's Bills. Only one of the many such Bills can be considered in committee at a time and anti-hunting MPs are planning to string out debate on a long list of amendments until March. If all the other Bills fail to complete their committee stages, the anti-hunting Bill will be the only one ready for the final stages. With the extra time available, pro-hunting MPs would then have the harder task of talking the Bill out for longer than expected.

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# Teenager found her murdered mother in loft

By Richard Duce

A TEENAGE girl let out an "ear-splitting" scream when she found the body of her murdered mother hidden in the loft of their home, a court was told yesterday.

Katie Hoskins, 15, discovered Glenda Hoskins, 45, rolled up in carpet after a police search had failed to find the missing woman. Winchester Crown Court was told.

Victor Farrant denies murdering Mrs Hoskins at her waterfront home near Portsmouth after she ended their affair. He also denies the attempted murder of another woman who was badly beaten six weeks before Mrs Hoskins was found dead in February 1996. Ann Fidler, 43, needed a nine-pint blood transfusion after her head was rammed against the toughened glass of an oven door at her home in Eastleigh, Hampshire, with such force that it shattered. She was also beaten about the head and face with three bottles and an iron.

Jeremy Gibbons, QC, for the prosecution, said that, in the month Mrs Hoskins was murdered, Mr Farrant was twice seen lurking outside her home. He produced evidence of two notes written by Mr Farrant to Mrs Hoskins. One stated: "Refuse to do anything I ask and you will be tied up and gagged. If I have to use violence to get what I want, I will. It will make no difference to me. I'm going to get what I want either way."

Mr Gibbons said it appeared that, in the face of the threats, Mrs Hoskins, an accountant and mother of three, consented to sex with Mr Farrant. She then had a bath and Mr Farrant is alleged to have pulled her underwear, by her ankles, smothered her with his hand and carried her body to the loft.

That afternoon, February 6, he went on to sell her CD collection and television before



Farrant said to have sent threatening notes

prostitute. Mr Gibbons said: "He walked into the kitchen and turned on the light. There was a woman being slumped on the floor."

"It was saturated in blood and there was glass everywhere. It was not until he leant over the person that he realised that it was his wife."

The court was told that Mr Farrant had apparently cut himself and blood was found on a kitchen tap. Semen was also recovered at the scene of Mrs Hoskins's murder. Mr Gibbons said that DNA testing showed that the likelihood of the samples being left by anyone other than Mr Farrant were one in 15 million.

Mr Farrant, 48, who was living in Portsmouth at the time of the killings, doing building work and house-to-house canvassing, was arrested in July 1996 and brought back to England in January last year. The trial continues.

fleeing to Belgium via Ramsgate, Mr Gibbons said. He claims the murder was premeditated because Mr Farrant had told friends before the murder that he had compact discs and a television to sell. "He had made up his mind what he was going to do to the woman who no longer wanted his attentions."

The jury was shown police photographs of the scene that confronted Katie Hoskins when she went into the loft to look for her mother. "There you see, poking out from a piece of carpet some bedraggled blonde hair," Mr Gibbons said.

He had earlier told the court that, on December 27, 1995, Mr Farrant had called at the home of Mrs Fidler, a prostitute who advertised a massage service in a local newspaper. The prosecution alleges that Mr Farrant subjected Mrs Fidler, dressed in a red basque, stockings and suspenders, to a ferocious attack in her kitchen.

Mr Gibbons said broken bottle necks and an iron, used in the attack and found in a dustbin, carried Mr Farrant's fingerprints.

Mrs Fidler had been discovered by her husband, Brent, who knew she worked as a



Big baby: Chester Zoo's latest addition, an Asian elephant born on New Year's Eve, made its debut yesterday

# Inquest told of tourist's bravery

By Bill Hoffmann

A BRITISH tourist aboard an out-of-control cable car comforted terrified fellow passengers seconds before she was killed, an inquest was told yesterday.

Helen Toombs, 46, a London Underground worker, was the sole fatality when the funicular railway car plunged in Quebec on October 12, 1996. A hoist rope snapped and sent the car hurtling down its lead into a cement wall.

Peter Hampshire, 30, a colleague who suffered a broken arm and two broken legs in the accident, told St Pancras Coroner's Court that, in the 60 seconds before impact, Miss Toombs, of Highbury, North London, had shown great bravery: "She was calling out to people not to panic and not to worry."

Miss Toombs, who weighed 27 stone, died in hospital after excessive bleeding from an abdominal wound. The coroner ruled her death accidental, but several civil actions against the funicular owners are pending.

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Ann Fidler, left, who was beaten about the head, and Glenda Hoskins, whose body was found in her loft

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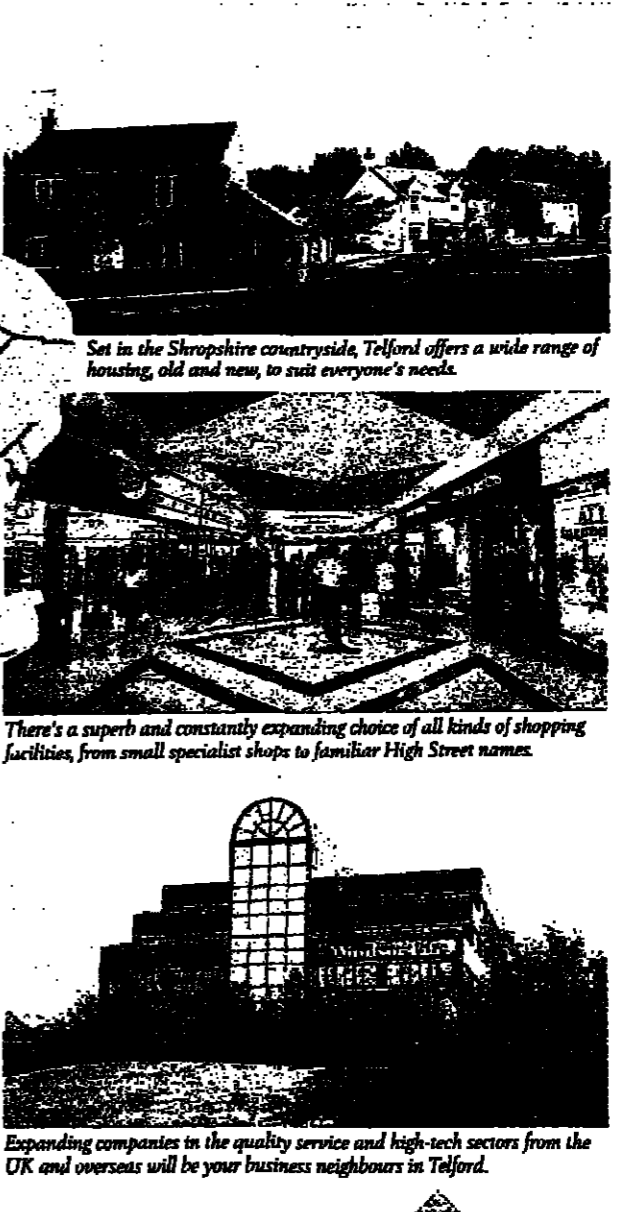
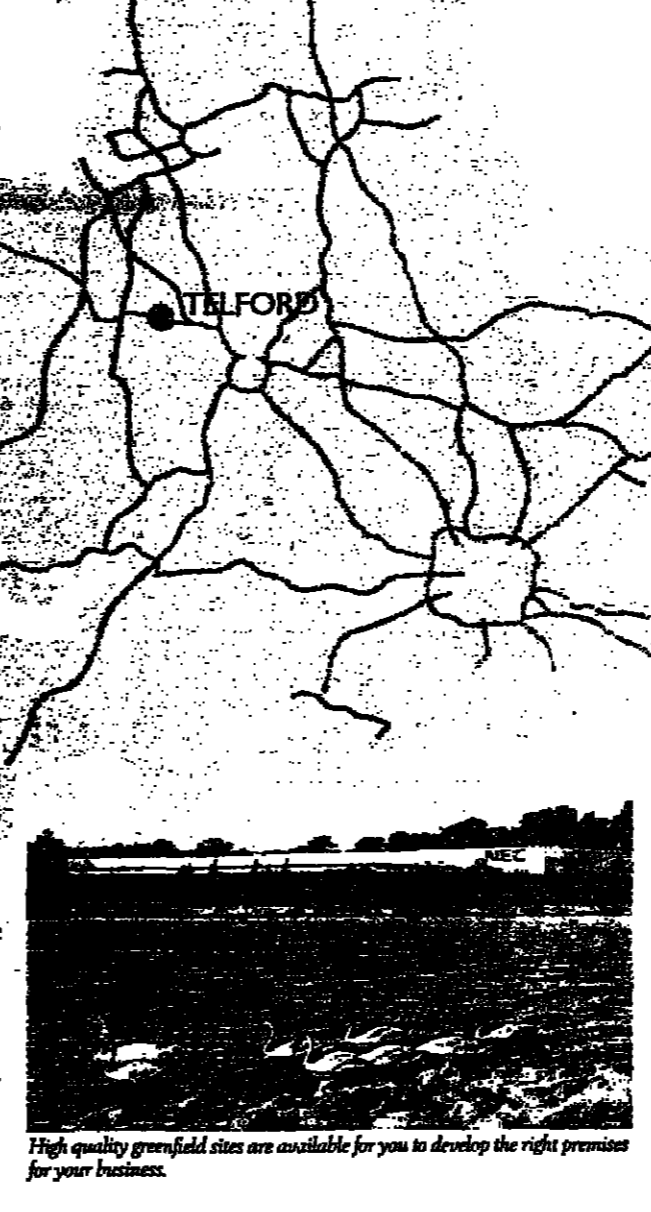
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# Primary classes go back to basics

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR



Aine Ni Chonail

## New Irish campaign says no to migrants

By AUDREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S first anti-immigration group was launched last night to campaign against asylum-seekers, as well as Britons and Germans setting up homes in the South West of the country.

The Immigration Control Platform, led by Aine Ni Chonail, a secondary school teacher who stood in the June general election, wants to "return Ireland to the Irish".

"We are turning into a country of immigration for people from urban conglomerates, and we need to think about the effect on our society," said Ms Ni Chonail, who teaches civics, Russian and Irish at a Roman Catholic convent in Clonakilty, West Cork.

An admirer of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's National Front, Ms Ni Chonail is unlikely to gain immediate support (she received only 293 votes in the election). But she has touched a nerve.

The immigration began in the 1970s when Europeans — Britons and Germans in particular — began to move to West Cork and Kerry. Their numbers increased dramatically in the 1980s and now an estimated 500 holiday homes in West Cork are bought by foreigners each year. Moreover, 4,000 people sought asylum in Ireland last year, compared with 39 in 1992. An estimated 40,000 arrive each year, the same as the number of Irish who leave to find work.

THE Government scrapped more than half the national curriculum in primary schools yesterday to give teachers more time to concentrate on ambitious new targets for literacy and numeracy.

Although schools will be expected to continue teaching history, geography, design and technology, art, music and physical education, the detailed requirements of the national curriculum will be suspended for two years. The curriculum will then be revised.

Under proposals announced by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, only English, mathematics, science, information technology and religious education will remain fully prescribed after September. Schools will be told to "have regard" to other subjects, but the content and duration of lessons will be at their own discretion.

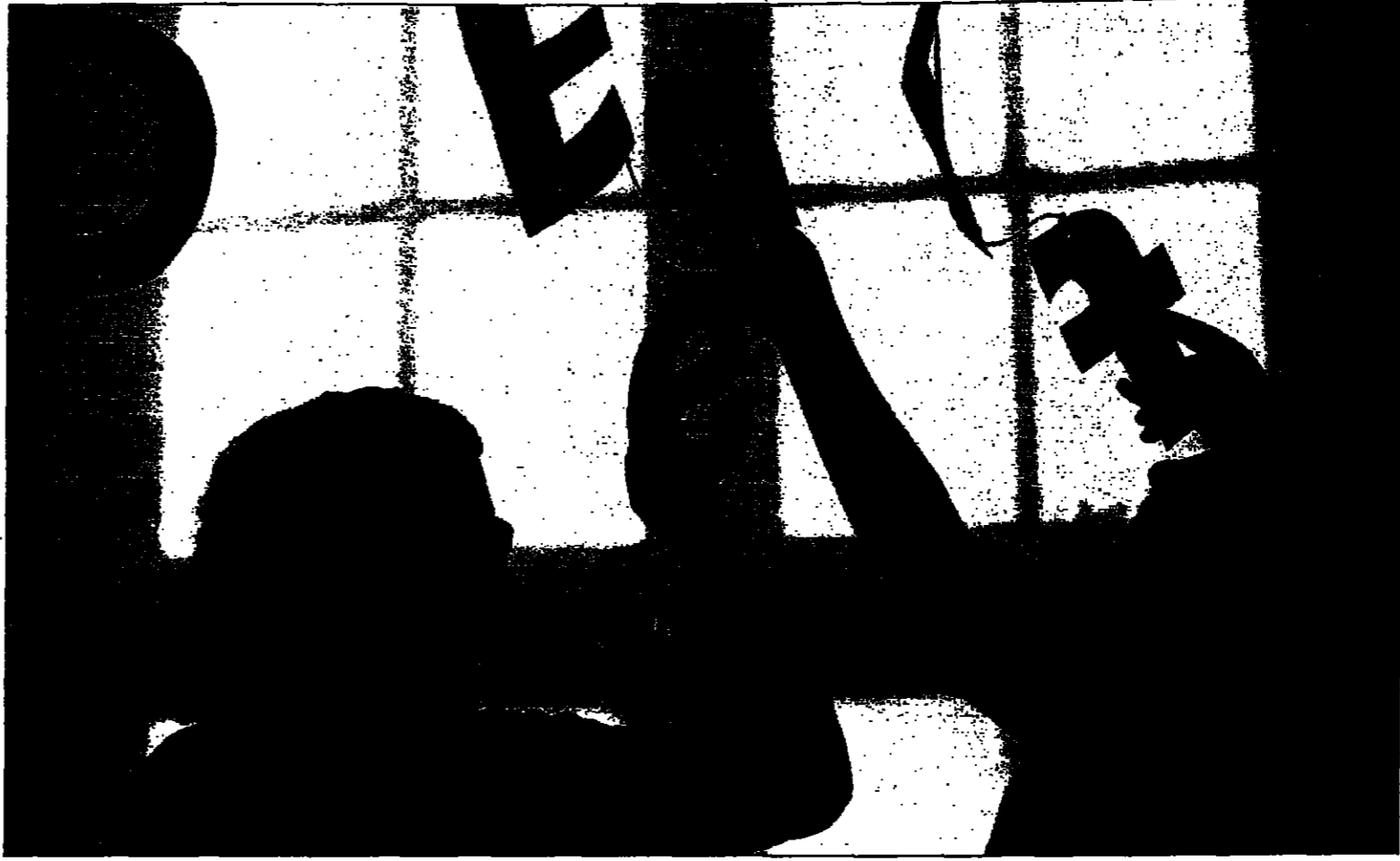
Mr Blunkett insisted that he was not "dumbing down" the curriculum but making it more flexible. He emphasised that no subjects were being dropped and that schools would continue to provide a "broad and balanced" curriculum.

He told a London news conference: "For too long, too many primary school teachers have been prevented from giving literacy and numeracy the attention they deserve because the national curriculum has lacked the very clear focus on the basics which are crucial in primary education.

As a result, literacy and numeracy have too often been subsumed into other subjects. It is no surprise that so many pupils leave primary school ill-equipped in the three Rs."

The decision represents a victory for Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, over the Government's curriculum advisers. In a rare alliance with the teaching unions, Mr Woodhead argued that the targets could be met only if more primary schooling was devoted to the basics.

Nick Tate, chief executive of



Literacy hour for five-year-olds at Grafton Primary School in Holloway, North London. Schools will be told to concentrate on the three Rs

the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), denied that he had opposed the change. But, in an article in today's *Times*, he says: "All the evidence suggests that the schools with the best results in English and maths are those which give a lot of attention to the other subjects as well. A 'basics and little else' curriculum in primary schools may have been acceptable when the main purpose of state education was to service a low-skill economy. It cannot be acceptable today."

The authority will produce guidelines for schools on how to approach the "non-core" subjects. Schools already meeting the targets for literacy and numeracy may continue with their existing curriculum, but most will be expected to

devote at least an hour a day to English and mathematics, using traditional methods.

Specialists in the subjects freed from compulsion reacted angrily to the changes. History teachers said they feared that primary education could become more narrow, while the Geographical Association expressed "incredulity and outrage" at a perceived U-turn in government policy.

But teachers' leaders welcomed the proposals. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "We have been emphasising that it is necessary to slim down the national curriculum if the Government's targets on literacy and numeracy are to be achieved."

Nicholas Tate, page 18

## Parents to pay teachers' wages at opt-out schools

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS at many of the 1,100 grant-maintained schools can expect to be asked for hundreds of pounds a year to save teachers' jobs, they were warned yesterday.

Heads had little choice but to follow the example of Tiffin School in Kingston upon Thames, southwest London, which is asking parents for £360 each, the Grant-Maintained Schools Centre said.

Anthony Dempsey, head of

which was announced to parents on Monday as an alternative to losing at least ten teachers. He said it was usual to be asked to pay a little extra for quality services.

Sir Robert Balchin, chairman of the GMS centre, said: "It is a stark situation for heads of grant-maintained schools — appeal to parents or make staff redundant."

All grant-maintained schools will have to return to a local funding system under

the School Standards and Framework Bill, currently before Parliament. This means the loss of special grants awarded by the previous Government, which they have used to take on specialist staff and improve facilities.

Sir Robert said that there had been no sign of the Government's aim of levelling out budgets so that schools were not disrupted.

Leading article, page 19

## All's fair when it comes to love and job-hunting

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

SARAH RUSSELL made a good impression on Piers Heyworth when he interviewed her for a job. But her turned her down and instead asked her to take on a demanding role for which she was even less prepared. Within a year of their meeting, she became his wife.

Mr Heyworth, 44, Headmaster of James Allen's Preparatory School

in Dulwich, southeast London, was looking for a deputy when he first met Miss Russell, 32. He said: "I liked Sarah, but you put on a different hat when you interview and put to one side any other thoughts you might have. She didn't get the job because there was another person who was better qualified."

Undeterred, Miss Russell wrote to Mr Heyworth to find out why she

had been rejected. "Quite a few people write in after they have been turned down, to ask for feedback, so I rang her up and we had a really nice chat on the phone," Mr Heyworth said.

"I found myself saying that perhaps my secretary could retype her CV on the school's laser printer so it showed up her strengths more. I don't do that for everyone, so I suppose that was my subconscious

saying. She's very nice." Within a few months he had proposed.

"I've interviewed many candidates over the years and, when you've rejected someone for a job, you don't think they're going to love you very much. I never thought I would end up marrying her."

Miss Russell said: "I'm absolutely delighted that Piers rejected me for the job. I'm much happier he's made me his wife."



Piers Heyworth and his bride

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## £5,000 for a tip-off on Lady in the Lake

The charity Crimestoppers yesterday offered £5,000 for information leading to the conviction of the killer of Carol Park, the "Lady in the Lake" whose bound and weighted body was found in Coniston Water, Cumbria, 21 years after she vanished. A murder charge against her former husband, Gordon Park, 53, of Barrow-in-Furness, was withdrawn a week ago.

## Porter accused

Labour MPs are calling for Dame Shirley Porter to be stripped of her title after the failure of her appeal against a £26 million surcharge arising from the Westminster "homes-for-votes" scandal. Twenty-five MPs have signed an early day motion tabled by Andrew Dismore, MP for Hendon.

## Writer reported

A Swansea county councillor reported the *Sunday Times* columnist A.A. Gill to the police for inciting racial hatred against the Welsh. Iwan Richard, a nationalist, said Gill had made offensive remarks on a weekly basis. The Crown Prosecution Service will decide whether to act.

## Pollution toll


Air pollution could hasten the deaths of up to 24,000 frail and elderly people each year, according to a government study. Road traffic and smoking were strong contributors to premature death, said the report by the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants.

## Rebel's new seat

Ken Coates, one of the MEPs expelled from the Labour Party for attacking its welfare policies, took a new seat in the European Parliament within the Group of the Confederation of the Left, an alliance of environmentalists and communists. He represents Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield.

## Crossed lines

Edinburgh councillors are opposing BT's plan to install 500 new telephone boxes in the city. They say the red-striped kiosks with illuminated domes are too garish for conservation areas. BT said: "We think they are suitable, but understand that others might have a different view."



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حکومتنا من الأفضل

# Suharto in 'last chance' talks on rescue of Indonesian economy

US officials press for reforms to avert collapse, write James Pringle and A Special Correspondent in Jakarta

TWO senior United States government officials plunged into Indonesia's economic and political crisis yesterday amid the first demonstrations against President Suharto.

The country's authoritarian leader is seen as having one last chance to save the world's fourth largest nation from financial collapse and a plunge into massive unemployment and possible anarchy. But to do so he must introduce painful economic reforms — and curb the excesses of his children.

William Cohen, the US Defense Secretary, arrived in Jakarta and Lawrence Summers, the Deputy Treasury Secretary, said after meeting Mr Suharto, 76, that he was reassured about the ruler's commitment to implement reforms. They were agreed last October with the International Monetary Fund. "It's clear

that President Suharto recognises the need to take strong steps of the kind that have been under discussion with the IMF to create confidence, and to build on the very strong foundations for prosperity that Indonesia enjoys," Mr Summers said.

Mr Asriwijono said afterwards: "We talked about the importance of restoring confidence in the economy... but he did not make any conditions. He agreed with what I said, which was that we must remove barriers, reduce costs and implement measures to make the economy more competitive." Mr Summers refused to comment.

He left the ministry by a back door to avoid the front entrance, where 30 members of the Communications Forum for Islamic Students in Jakarta were protesting against international involvement in what they say is a domestic crisis. They brandished banners saying "We love the rupiah," and "We don't need the IMF," and shouted: "Don't sell out the honour of the nation to the IMF."

A similar number of supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the symbolic leader of Indonesia's opposition movement, staged an unprecedented rally at the House of Representatives. Calling themselves the People's Democratic Alliance, they sang patriotic songs and urged legislators to back Mrs Megawati's bid for the presidency in March elections. Scores of police watched, but did not intervene in the peaceful protest.

# Outrage in Mexico after officers fire on Chiapas Indians

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LAS CASAS

THE governor of Mexico's conflict-ridden southern Chiapas state has called for an overhaul of the state police after officers opened fire on Indian demonstrators in the town of Ocosingo, killing one woman and wounding her three-year-old daughter and a 17-year-old boy.



Pro-Zapatista villagers in Galeana, Chiapas, confront soldiers, who were forced to withdraw

Vivid television footage of the incident, broadcast repeatedly across the country, showed police officers firing warning shots into the air in response to stones thrown by the protesters. Some officers then aimed their automatic rifles at the crowd and fired.

The demonstrators ran for cover as the police fired for about 15 seconds before fleeing in a lorry. The protesters threw rocks at the lorry, and police inside fired another volley of bullets.

The television footage showed the woman gasping for breath as she was rushed by a television crew to a hospital in nearby Altamirano, where she was pronounced dead. Her daughter suffered a bullet wound in the left arm and the boy was hit in the stomach.

The shootings have refuelled tensions in Chiapas, four years after an Indian uprising led by the Zapatista National Liberation Front brought to national attention the poverty and repression suffered by indigenous Mayan Indian communities. The movement's leader, known as Subcomandante Marcos, urged Mexicans to press the Government

to end the killings in Chiapas. The Mexican Government, again facing mounting public protests, arrested 27 officers.

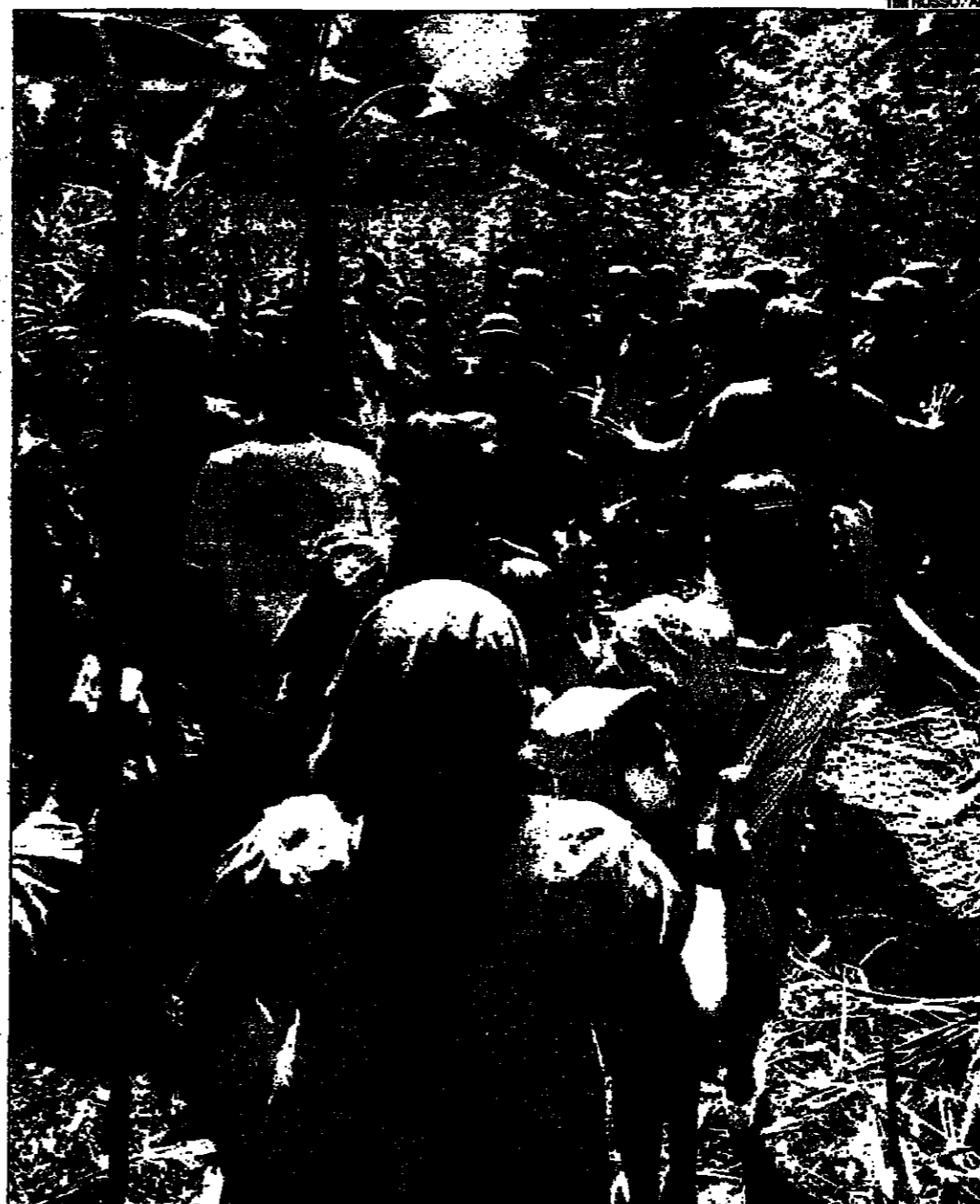
As news of the shooting on Monday reached Mexico City, the capital, a crowd estimated at 80,000 gathered in the main square to protest at the Government's handling of the situation in Chiapas. They also demanded that federal officials be punished and that stalled peace talks with the four-year-old rebel movement be resumed.

ers were reported to be gathering in Ocosingo for another demonstration. The latest shooting raised fears that tensions that have engulfed Chiapas since the December 22 massacre of 45 Indian peasants sympathetic to the rebels could explode into violence.

The resurgence in the conflict, in large part due to paramilitary activity by supporters of Mexico's ruling party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), has claimed the lives of more than 150 people and prompted the exodus of an estimated 11,000 people from villages caught up in the violence.

Public outrage over the December 22 massacre in the hamlet of Acteal was further fuelled by a report this week by the Government's Human Rights Commission which accused officials in Chiapas of failing to intervene to stop the slaughter. On Monday the state police chief of a village near Acteal was arrested after allegedly admitting that he had handed out weapons used in the attack on orders from his superiors.

After that massacre, Mexico's Interior Minister, the governor of Chiapas, and the state police chief were forced to resign. But many Mexicans are demanding tougher action by President Zedillo, including the dissolution of the Chiapas state government.



Pro-Zapatista villagers in Galeana, Chiapas, confront soldiers, who were forced to withdraw

# Hostage held at gunpoint in Tokyo exchange

FROM JOJI SAKURAI IN TOKYO

AN ARMED intruder, upset with government plans to open Japan's financial industry to wider competition, held a hostage yesterday for six hours at the Tokyo Stock Exchange before releasing him and surrendering.

The assailant was identified by police as Tetsuo Itagaki, a former leader of an ultranationalist group. He was taken into custody minutes after the hostage was freed.

Police said the hostage was Masahiro Abe, a Finance Ministry official who is attached to the ministry's oversight office at the exchange. Hundreds of police had ringed the exchange after the intruder took Mr Abe at gunpoint into a conference room. The gunman demanded that the exchange be closed, a meeting with Hiroshi Mitsuoka, the Finance Minister, arranged and all police withdrawn from the building.

"I hope from my heart that this situation will be resolved soon," Mr Mitsuoka said before Mr Abe's release.

Police said that before seizing Mr Abe, Mr Itagaki had calmly requested a meeting with the official in an executive office on the exchange's 14th floor. Japanese media reported that he was even served tea as he waited.

Several police vehicles lined the street and special agents carrying hammers and other equipment appeared to be ready to break into the executive office if necessary. Trading is done on the lower floors of the building, and traders continued work as usual.

The exchange is at the centre of the capital's crowded financial district in Tokyo. About 1,400 people work in the 15-storey building housing the exchange. (AP)

# Doomsday cult members freed after second mass suicide bid is foiled

Santa Cruz de Tenerife Nineteen members of an alleged doomsday cult were arrested while apparently preparing a second mass suicide attempt, but were released by a judge in Tenerife, in Spain's Canary Islands yesterday.

The 16 adults and three children were detained overnight at a farm owned by Heidi Fitzkau-Garthe, a German psychologist and the suspected leader of the group.

According to Mari Paz Bernal, a government spokeswoman, the group had been planning its second group suicide attempt in a week.

Last week, police said they had foiled a bid by 32 followers of Frau Fitzkau-Garthe to take their own lives. They said the group believed the world was going to end last Thursday, night and that a spaceship would rescue their souls from a Tenerife volcano. Most of the cult members are German.

Frau Fitzkau-Garthe, 57, was the only one arrested at the time, and police said her alleged disciples had been "brainwashed". She was charged on Saturday with attempted murder and "inducement to suicide" and was ordered to be held without bail.

Yesterday Spanish radio said Interpol had alerted police in Spain to the latest plot after a member of the group phoned a relative on Monday night to say "goodbye". The relative had informed the authorities. Officials would not give any details on how the group allegedly planned to commit suicide.

Police last week said that they found poisonous chemicals at Frau Fitzkau-Garthe's home where she and her alleged followers were staging what was described as a "last supper". But Enrique Porres, her defence lawyer, denied any poison had been discovered. A member of the group claimed it was nothing more than a homeopathic medicine.

Senior Porres said his client was not a cult leader but a "humanitarian" providing safe haven for abused women and people with psychological problems.

Thirteen of the 32 alleged sect members have returned to Germany since the weekend. Spanish radio reported, which quoted German police as saying the group might belong to a Hindu apocalyptic sect. (Reuters)

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# UN team 'close to finding spy base'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council was last night once again faced with the dilemma of what to do with a defiant Saddam Hussein after Iraq effectively barred a team of American-led United Nations weapons inspectors from going to work.

There were suspicions that Iraq provoked the latest confrontation on Monday because the team had been about to expose an important facility at a Baghdad hospital used by Iraqi intelligence to spy on the inspectors. Iraq claimed the team contained too many American and British members and that its leader, Scott Ritter, a former US Marine Corps captain, was a CIA hireling, an accusation denied by the US and the UN.

Bill Richardson, America's UN Ambassador, also voiced concern that Iraq had acted because the inspectors were getting too close for comfort. "They are probably looking at some sensitive sites where they suspect the Iraqis are hiding weapons of mass destruction or poison gas, and I suspect this is why the Iraqis are precipitating this latest crisis."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said in a statement that Britain would discuss with its European Union part-

ners the latest Iraqi move. "Once again Saddam Hussein is defying the will of the international community," he said. "The present round of inspection is being carried out by 44 personnel from 17 countries. Iraqi claims of bias are clearly false."

A Russian spokesman said Moscow was taking "active steps" to ease the tension and France — often deemed sympathetic to Baghdad — said it had asked Iraq to reconsider its decision.

"It's a crisis of sorts, but I will not say that it's not containable," said Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. "Other governments who have influence with Baghdad are in touch with the Iraqi authorities. I hope reason will be brought to bear."

It was Russia's intervention that resolved the last stand-off with Iraq in November after Baghdad expelled all Americans working for the UN Special Commission (Unscm) responsible for ridding the country of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr Annan appealed to Iraq to accept Unscm's right to name the members of its inspection teams. "It's the UN and Unscm who decide who participates and who does not and how the teams are put



Scott Ritter, head of a UN inspection team barred by Saddam, with an Iraqi soldier in Baghdad yesterday

together, and I would hope that Iraq would accept that premise."

He said Iraq's complaints could be discussed with Richard Butler, the commission chairman, when he arrives in

Baghdad for previously scheduled talks next week.

William Cohen, America's Defence Secretary, said the US, which has kept a powerful military force in the Gulf since last year's similar confronta-

tion, would exhaust all "reasonable" diplomatic initiatives. "We have not reached that point yet," he said.

Arab diplomats said Saddam was again attempting to highlight the extent of the anti-

war coalition in the Security Council and had probably calculated that Washington would not risk inflaming feelings in the region by striking at Iraq during the holy month of Ramadan.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Urban guerrillas arrested in Greece

Athens: More than 15 suspected members of the Fighting Guerrilla Formation, believed to have staged a series of bomb attacks since 1995, have been arrested, Greek police said. It was Greece's first big success against one of many urban guerrilla groups operating since the 1970s.

The arrests were made after police found explosives, other bomb-making material and anarchist pamphlets at five private homes in and around the capital. Tax offices and the Peruvian Embassy have been among the Fighting Guerrillas' targets, but bombs planted at Italy's Alitalia airline and Lancia car offices in Greece have failed to explode. None of the blasts had caused any deaths. (Reuters)

### French find hijacked cars

Brussels: French police have recovered about 30 cars stolen during a wave of car hijackings that has swept Belgium in recent months, the Brussels public prosecutor's office said. The prosecutor had set up a special unit last month to combat the epidemic of what were believed to be thefts to order of luxury cars. Most of the recovered cars were Mercedes, with several BMWs and three Ferraris. They were found in the port of Le Havre, awaiting shipment to Lebanon, police reported. All were new or nearly new. (Reuters)

### 66 die in India bus plunge

Calcutta: Sixty-six people, mostly children, died when a packed bus returning from a day's outing plunged into a river in dense fog in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, police said. The victims were aged between 12 and 16 years. Police said 45 of the bodies were found inside the bus after it was lifted from the riverbed by federal border guards. The river Bhagirathi is about 60ft deep at the accident spot, officials said. (AFP)

### Mandela to stay a free man

Johannesburg: President Mandela of South Africa and his companion, Graca Machel, right, have no plans for marriage, she said in an interview with The Star newspaper. "I think we are OK like this," said the widow of Samora Machel, the former Mozambican President. "I know many people are concerned that we are sending the wrong message to young people. But we are two grown-ups who love each other." She described Mr Mandela as "humble and soft". (AFP)



### Hurricane row mayor quits

Acapulco: A Mexican mayor who went on holiday to Disneyland despite warnings of a hurricane that later devastated his city has stepped down. Juan Salgado Tena, mayor of this Pacific resort city, resigned under pressure after the Disneyland incident and other political controversies. Acapulco was devastated in October by Hurricane Pauline. The storm killed more than 200 Mexicans, most of them in Acapulco. (Reuters)

### Waste pollutes China canal

Beijing: About 400,000 people in eastern China may be without water for almost three weeks after a chemical spillage in the Grand Canal, the world's longest man-made waterway, the China Daily reported. Industrial waste was tipped into the canal on January 3 and about 24 miles of the waterway have been polluted. The Grand Canal is the main source of water for the town of Suzhou. (AFP)

### Refugee sews lips together

Athens: A 21-year-old Iraqi Kurdish journalist, arrested after he entered Greece illegally last Friday, sewed his lips together in an effort to get political asylum, police said. Police in Alexandroupolis, northeast Greece, said Honor Salah was held with a group of other Iraqi Kurds on the Greek-Turkish border. Once in a cell, he sewed up his lips with a needle and thread hidden in his clothing and began a hunger strike for asylum. (AFP)

### Japanese crime snowballs

Tokyo: A robber held up a man outside a Tokyo credit union with a snowball and got away with 11.7 million yen (£33,000), police said. The robber threw the snow in the face of a 69-year-old customer and snatched a shoulder bag containing the cash which the man had just withdrawn from an automatic teller machine, police said. The attacker fled in a car driven by his accomplice. (AFP)

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Himmler with Hitler, whose role in the killing of European Jews has been questioned

# Hitler 'ordered Holocaust'

A GERMAN historian has unearthed documents in the KGB archives which he says show that Hitler personally ordered the killing of European Jews. The discovery, by Christian Gerlach, is sure to prompt fresh controversy in the long-standing dispute between historians about the extent of Hitler's involvement in the "Final Solution".

A key piece of evidence is the appointments diary of Heinrich Himmler, the head of the SS. On December 18, 1941, Himmler had a talk with Hitler. There were apparently no witnesses. His diary records the subject as being "the Jewish question". Underneath Himmler notes: "To be exterminated as pariahs." He drew a thick line in the margin.

Herr Gerlach — researching a work on economic and extermination policy in German-occupied Belarus — began to puzzle over the entry. What did Himmler mean? He was not, presumably, referring to Soviet Jews, since by the winter of 1941 almost one million Jews in the Soviet Union had been murdered by the Nazis.

Historians such as Gerald Fleming (in *Hitler and the Final Solution*, Oxford University Press) have demonstrated that Himmler was already justifying the shooting of Jewish civilians in the summer of 1941 as a consequence of an order from the Führer. Nobody, however, has found a document to that effect signed by Hitler, and the question of when — and even if — Hitler gave the go-ahead for the destruction of non-Soviet European

Himmler diary found in the KGB archives indicates that the Führer personally decreed "Final Solution", writes Roger Boyes in Bonn

Jewry has nagged researchers for decades. The lack of documentary evidence has opened the way for right-wing revisionist historians such as David Irving, who have tried to show that the killing of Jews was carried out largely without Hitler's knowledge.

Herr Gerlach believes that the Moscow document not only shows there was a fundamental decision by Hitler, but that it is also now possible to reconstruct the date on which the killing order was given: December 12, 1941, six days before the meeting with Himmler and one day after Germany's declaration of war on America.

On that date, Hitler met 50 provincial governors in the Berlin Chancellery. According to Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda chief, Hitler used the occasion to recall his Reichstag speech of January 30, 1939, in which he promised that in the event of a world war, the Jews would have to face the consequences.

Herr Gerlach says it is now possible

to see a direct link between this meeting, the Himmler conversation, and the Wannsee conference of January 20, 1942, which dealt with the technical implementation of the "Final Solution".

The Wannsee conference was originally due to be held on December 9, but was postponed because of Pearl Harbour and the globalisation of the war.

That, argues Herr Gerlach, also changed the agenda at Wannsee. The original purpose of the conference — chaired by Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi security chief — was to discuss how to proceed with the deportation of German Jews, a relatively low-level issue. Hitler's decision on December 12 to exterminate European Jewry changed the theme, and the tone, of the conference.

Herr Gerlach has published his findings in the latest issue of the journal *Werkstatt Geschichte*, and has already gained flanking support from

Norbert Kampe, curator of the Wannsee Museum. It is a convincing explanation for the postponement of the conference. Hitler evidently personally expanded the murder programme to include all of Europe's Jews and this took the main actors of the killing machine by surprise.

Not all historians are convinced by Herr Gerlach's findings, however. Professor Hans Mommsen, a veteran researcher into the Third Reich, describes the document as an "important contribution" to Holocaust studies but still refuses to believe in a central decision to exterminate the Jews.

On December 12, he says, "Hitler held one of his usual speeches. It was nothing special."

Professor Mommsen is a prime exponent of the "functionalist" school of historians, who argue that the genocide of the Jews was carried out by radicalised regional authorities, either solving local problems such as the overcrowded ghettos, or competing for favour from on high.

Herr Gerlach does not set himself entirely against this school. In the autumn of 1941 different policies were being applied to Jews in Lithuania, 5000 German Jews were shot that November, while in Lodz, the Germans were worrying about sanitary conditions in the ghetto rather than extermination.

The logic of Herr Gerlach's argument is that regional authorities were pressing for a decision as to what to do with the millions of deported Jews.



President Yeltsin tried to allay concerns about his health, appearing yesterday on Russian state television driving a snowmobile at his holiday home in the Valdai region northwest of Moscow

## Knights of Malta to admit women

By RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Knights of Malta, who are linked to the Vatican, were to allow women into their ranks for the first time in their 900-year history.

The move comes at a time when the Roman Catholic world is embroiled in debate over the Vatican's inflexible attitude on sexual issues, including the role of women in the Church.

"An ancient Catholic institution of male exclusivity has fallen," *Il Messaggero*, the Rome daily, commented yesterday. Count Carlo Marullo, the Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, said the decision to admit women had been taken "in accordance with the authentic spirit of Christianity and humanism" on the eve of the new millennium.

The Knights, also known as Hospitallers, trace their origins to the 11th century Crusades, when they acquired papal sanction. They gave hospitality to Crusaders and cared for the sick, but also took on an increasingly mili-

tary character after establishing an armed guard for the protection of Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land. After the fall of Acre at the end of the 13th century, they escaped to Cyprus and then Rhodes, and in 1571 were given sovereignty over Malta by Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor.

The Knights were expelled from Malta by Napoleon, but Count Marullo said they were negotiating with the Maltese Government and hoped to be given "a small piece of autonomous territory", allowing them to return to the island in time for their 900th anniversary next year.

Gay protest: A man from Sicily aged 39, protesting over discrimination against homosexuals, set himself on fire in St Peter's Square and tried to rush towards the basilica's entrance. The Vatican denied that the protest was aimed at its opposition to homosexual acts. The man was in a serious condition in a Rome hospital last night. (Reuters)

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# Germans reveal spy who came in from the Cold War with a new name

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE spokesman for the German secret intelligence service would like it to be known that his name is Michael Baumann and not Peter Juchatz, as he has claimed for the past three years. Peter Juchatz, Herr Baumann said, was a codename. But now that the German intelligence service, the BND (Bundesnachrichtendienst), is adopting a more

open aspect to the world, it has been decided that he should formally come in from the cold under his real name. To ensure that interested parties should know what to call him the next time they telephoned, he issued a statement to the German press. Spokesmen for the BND have traditionally used codenames like BND intelligence officers in the field. However, this practice did not fit in with the agency's drive to shed its Cold War image in favour

of more openness, the spokesman said. "For this reason I can inform you that I have discarded my codename, Peter Juchatz, and will now be your contact at the BND under my real name of Michael Baumann," he said. To clear up any remaining confusion, a spokesman for the German Embassy in London said: "Of course he was always called Michael Baumann." The BND which is the equivalent

of Britain's MI6 and the American CIA, was established as a federal government department in 1956. It comes under the control of the Chancellor's office and is located in Munich. The BND's decision to identify its spokesman may be in line with the new era of openness spreading across the intelligence world but it is a long way behind the Americans. The CIA has had officially named spokesmen for about 25 years. The present direc-

tor of public affairs is Bill Harlow, who is quoted frequently in American newspapers. The CIA has about four people who can be named, none of whom has used a pseudonym at any time. The Russians are also happy to have their intelligence agency spokesmen named and quoted. The present head of the "public relations centre" at Russia's domestic Federal Security Service (FSB), the equivalent of Britain's MI5, is Major-General Aleksandr

Zdanovich. He is quoted by name in Russian newspapers. The SVR, the Russian foreign intelligence service, is not quite so open but it also has a number of spokesmen and spokeswoman who can be quoted. Britain's MI6 is more coy. Although the Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, Sir David Spedding, was officially named by the Prime Minister when he was appointed, he has not made any public appearance or state-

ments and no one is ever officially quoted, either by name or by codename. The French DGSE (Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure), has also kept its inner workings close to its chest and has not appointed a public affairs spokesman. However, the name of the DGSE director-general can be acquired from the Ministry of Defence in Paris and intrepid inquirers could seek to speak to him on the phone.

# Election fear for Republicans in abortion row

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE divided Republican Party faces another threat to its unity this weekend when conservatives will attempt to make opposition to late abortions a litmus test for whether a candidate gets party money. The issue, opposed by party leaders fearful of the impact on November's congressional elections, is likely to dominate the weekend meeting of the Republican National Committee in Palm Springs, Florida. The split within the Republicans over the question is attracting nationwide attention just days before the 25th anniversary of Roe v Wade, the landmark Supreme Court

ruling which declared it unconstitutional to deny a woman an abortion. Under the conservatives' proposal, all candidates for congressional and local posts who do not support a ban on "partial-birth" abortion, a particularly controversial method of late abortions, would be denied party funds. President Clinton has vetoed two bills to ban partial-birth abortion, on the ground that they failed to make exception for cases where the mother's life was in danger. Most Republican leaders, even those opposed to late abortions, are against the

"litmus test" proposal for fear that it will handicap the party in fighting the November elections. While Republican control of the Senate seems assured, there is a slim chance that the Democrats could regain their traditional hold on the House of Representatives. The leaders cautiously predict that the resolution will be defeated, but have been given an uncomfortable reminder of the ability of abortion to divide the party. Bob Dole, the former presidential candidate, this week described the resolution as "terrible", adding: "We don't need litmus tests in our party. We need to reach out to people."

# Vocal veteran returns

Washington: It was like old times at the White House yesterday with Sam Donaldson, the television reporter known as the "human bullhorn", back on the beat (Ian Brodie writes). Mr Donaldson, 63, his famous toupee firmly in place, has been assigned to cover President Clinton by his employers, ABC News, to bolster its flagging ratings. Mr Donaldson made his name shouting questions in his bullying baritone at Presidents Carter, Reagan and Bush. Then, nine years ago, he went on to the realms of punditry and a news magazine programme. In the mean-

time, the White House press corps almost fell into a slumber. Mr Donaldson promises to wake them up. His return to coverage of presidential politics has been treated as something of a national event. For openness, he handed questions about weapons inspectors being barred in Iraq as Mr Clinton stepped off a helicopter, on the White House lawn. Mr Clinton ignored him. The President did not even cup his hand over his ears and pretend he could not hear, the way Mr Reagan did. The only response: Mr Donaldson received was a bark from Mr Clinton's pup, Buddy.

Mr Dole's campaign for the presidency in 1996 was undermined by a bitter split between the religious Right and Republican moderates over abortion, followed by a failure to close the "gender gap", which left Democrats with a decisive majority among women voters. El Money trouble: Mr Clinton is considering proposing another increase in the minimum wage in his State of the Union speech on January 27. The move is certain to stir controversy in the Republican-controlled Congress, which in 1996 grudgingly allowed the President an increase in the minimum wage by 90 cents an hour to \$5.15, which came fully into effect on September 1 last year.



Demonstrators ransack offices in Paris yesterday at the end of a nationwide protest calling for higher benefits for the unemployed

# Jobless protest ends in Paris clashes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A "MARCH for jobs" by the unemployed in Paris ended in violence last night when several hundred protesters occupied the city's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and hurled fire extinguishers, rubbish bins and chairs at riot police. After a largely peaceful march through the city by the demonstrators, whose numbers were estimated at 10,000 by the organisers and 5,000 by city officials, a large group converged on the office building in the First Arrondisse-

ment. According to police, about 300 barricaded themselves into the building and set about "pillaging and violently sucking" the office, while 400 others rallied outside. Workers were forced to evacuate the premises and by early evening a large contingent of riot police had encircled the building. "Protesters blocked access to the building using scaffolding materials, and proceeded to throw objects and furniture while destroying work documents," according to a police

spokesman. The demonstrators left the building after two hours, following brief scuffles with the police. Similar marches were held in dozens of cities around the country, including Montpellier, Bordeaux and Marseille. It was the second such national protest in less than a week. Several welfare offices, cleared by riot police at the weekend, have been reoccupied by activists and another mass protest has been planned for Saturday. With the jobless rate standing at

12.4 per cent, the demonstrators are demanding increased welfare payments for the long-term unemployed. France's employers, however, delivered their own attack on the government of Lionel Jospin, with a statement from the five largest employers groups insisting that the Socialist prime minister's plan to cut the working week from 39 hours to 35 was a recipe for economic disaster. "That is something that will work against jobs, that will cripple the recovery we are

now seeing," Ernest-Arnaud Sellier, the head of the CNPE, the biggest employers' federation, said. The unemployed were wrong to see employers as the cause of their plight. "They should not confuse friends and foes. The jobsless should consider themselves as allies of the entrepreneurs — they are the only ones likely to offer them jobs," he said. M Jospin said yesterday that he would not be deflected from his plan to cut the working week.

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The Chancellor, a brilliant scholar, came to bitterly regret being singled out for success so young

# The birth of a social conscience

## In the final extract from Gordon Brown's biography, Paul Routledge looks at the Chancellor's schooldays

**G**ordon Brown remembers his schooldays as "football, football, rugby, tennis, running and then football again. Right from the time I was very young, it was always less classrooms than playgrounds, less books than football matches."

However, by the age of ten, his cleverness had already come to the notice of the education authorities. Five education chiefs were worried by the high failure rate of high-school students, particularly those from homes affected by unemployment or low income. The answer, introduced by the county's progressive chief education officer, Dr Douglas Mackintosh, was the "E-Stream" experiment, which singled out intelligent boys and girls for rapid development, bypassing the 11-plus intelligence test then required to get into selective secondary education. Reputedly, an IQ of 130 was required to get into the stream.

Gordon was chosen to join the experiment at Kirkcaldy High School. He enrolled there at the age of ten, a year younger than most of the "E" class of 11 boys and 25 girls. The teaching was intensive.

Ten Kirkcaldy High School pupils distinguished themselves in the university entrance bursary competitions during their final year, among them Gordon. He was first in the history section of the Edinburgh Competition, where two girls and three other boys also gained a mention in the merit list. The "E" experiment had yielded some results, but Brown today has his doubts about the forcing of young talent.

"The trouble was, they pushed people too hard and many didn't get even near university — maybe only a third, or a half." Still only 16 and loaded with examination honours, Gordon was clearly on the brink of a brilliant academic career. He could have stayed on for another year at the High School, where he was "Dux" — the leading scholar — of his year.

brother John, Gordon's unpublished critique of the "E" experiment, written when he was only 16, was found during research for his biography. The typewritten essay, dated May 1967, opens: "I was a guinea pig, the victim of a totally unsighted [sic] and ludicrous experiment in education, the result of which was to harm materially and mentally the guinea pigs." He describes the "year early" entry system, designed to give them an extra year at secondary school to prepare for university.

"But many of my friends met with dismal failure, despair and a sense of uselessness. I cannot emphasise too much the demoralisation I saw in some of these guinea pigs." He was surprised that none of them broke down completely. For the failures, there could be sympathy, but nothing else. They had failed and there was nothing anyone could do about it. "Young Gordon had watched as every year another class of eager children embarked on a great experiment. It is now that I see that it is not the idea that is the victim of the experiment," he reasoned. "The victims are us, the guinea pigs."

**'At 16 I had more problems than I had years'**

"I watched as each year, one or two of my friends would fall under the strain. I saw one girl who every now and then would disappear for a while with a nervous breakdown. I stood by as a friend of mine, who I knew was intelligent enough, left school in despair after five years of strain with no university/higher qualifications. I thought continually of how it could have been for these young guinea pigs, how the strain of work, the ignominy and rejection of failure could have been avoided. All this, I thought I saw better than any educationalist in his ivory tower."

At the age of 12, he had been faced with "a next-to-impossible task" — to decide for all time in what subject he would specialise. He chose history. "I know my choice was wrong, but what could I do?" he lamented. "The mistakes made with materials are revocable, but the mistakes made with people cannot be averted."

At the ages of 14 and 15, he sat his friends, or do something else. The last choice, doing voluntary service or something similar, was not possible because of his age. To his horror, he discovered that a seventh year at school would simply be a repeat of the sixth, without university conditions or transitional work. Even his teachers advised him to go straight to university. From the planners of "Eschero came little advice, encouragement or planning. The preparations for Edinburgh had been negligible. Six years of strain had been pointless. "Against my wishes, I was forced by circumstance to proceed to university."

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failure by providing extra time at school, the "projectors" had effected a far more grievous crime. They were responsible for the failure of the 20 pupils who had to suffer the ignominy of repeating years, and for the few who left school without the qualifications for university. "One question sticks in my mind," he concluded. "Surely it is better for children to succeed at school and leave with some qualifications for work, rather than to endure failure, ignominy, rejection and at the least, strain, for the ironic reason of averting failure at university?"

"This someone little essay, with its tortured *causé* for those less able than himself and its withering assessment of the ivory-tower 'projectors', offers an insight into his developing social outlook. Other boys would simply have gone off to university, only too thankful to have succeeded academically."

Gordon went, but reluctantly, and evidently burdened with guilt at the fate of his fellow students, forced to take part in an experiment that had pushed them further and faster than they could go at that age. The "E" clearly quickened his acquisition of a social conscience. The guiding idea of "fairness" took root early.

**O**n the eve of Gordon Brown's first Budget in 1997, the Glasgow-based *Sunday Mail* tracked down his schoolmates at Kirkcaldy High. The class of 1967 but they remember him well.

Jamie Millar, who also went to Edinburgh University and is now a commercial lawyer, recalled: "He was by far the most gifted student in our class. We all knew he was going to do very well." Ian Smith, who became chief executive of Dumfries and Galloway Council, said: "It was Gordon who set the pace, and the rest of us would do our best to keep up."

This is an edited extract from Gordon Brown's biography, by Paul Routledge, published by Simon & Schuster, £17.99. © Paul Routledge 1998

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Childcare and reform of the welfare state + The allure of the Lothario + Food 'facts' are just too hard to swallow

## It is something of a truism that politicians get blamed most for what they are doing right. That might not make it any easier for Tony Blair to fend off criticism of his welfare reform, which everyone, even those of us most inclined to whine (present company not excepted), know is necessary. Of course, he is not helped by some of the allies in his camp. I ask you, is it helpful of Harriet Harman to invoke the benefit-scrounging ghoul of the woman on a million pounds a year? It is not so much that it's plain silly (not only must such specimens be so rare as to be economically irrelevant but, in my experience, women in high-powered City jobs don't even take time off when they have a baby, let alone claim maternity pay), but, more importantly, it's unnecessarily defensive. And it's counter-productive: Ms Harman has not pre-empted criticism thereby, she's invited it. And yet the idea of an affluence test — a means test for the people we don't have to be nice to — is not a bad one. If the welfare state is to be overhauled, the first thing we need to look at is the well-meaning but outmoded model of universal benefits. And it's not Thatcher I cite here, but

# Affluence test for women of means

Mark: "To each according to his needs" is not a meaningless mantra; it must remain, or be reinstated, as the defining duty of the welfare state.

To say that it'll be difficult to establish just what constitutes affluence is to state the obvious. The figure cannot be pinched too high, or the decreased burden on the public purse will be negligible; this is where the idiocy, and dishonesty, of invoking the million-a-yearers comes in.

We all know that a salary which sounds well-off on paper doesn't feel so to those who earn it. These things are relative. When Grey Gowrie resigned from office saying it was impossible to live on a ministerial salary of £33,000 a year, he was ridiculed by journalists and commentators who claim that much, annually, on expenses.

The Blair Government, for all that it was carried on in the shoulders of the approving middle classes, cannot afford now to heed middle-class anxiety.

Not that all of this anxiety is unjustified: it will be those on middle incomes who will feel the sharp edge of the benefit-slashing knife. But again: these things are relative, and it will be less painful for us than it would be for those on low incomes.

and (although this vile American tag is often used against him) an instinctive, people-pleaser. There is one-way he can target the not-hungry affluent middle classes with his so-called affluence test without making them feel betrayed. And that's by doing

land is happy to keep forking out for everyone else, so why shouldn't it benefit from this principle a little, too. (And it would silence anti-welfare dissent from the now disenfranchised ex-Tory Labour voters.)

To counter fears that the Government is inviting the exploitation of a new servant class as it recreates the upstairs-downstairs society, Blair strikes another deal. He makes tax relief on childcare applicable only if the employers are paying above a stipulated wage. He makes it clear there will be no perks for those who demand slave labour.

And perhaps Harriet Harman could have her way in all this, too. I refer now to her earlier passion for sending single mothers back into the workplace. Surely, there must be a way of coming to terms here? Single mothers need work but don't want to leave their children. Mothers who go out to work need childcare. Arguably, it would better to have children being looked after by a mother — a woman who had real as opposed to college-taught experience of the subject. Why not offer an incentive to prospective employers to encourage them to take on women who would like to bring their own children to work with them. Maybe that in turn would offer a real

incentive and a plausible solution — for those very lone mothers, too. Maybe we need not move into those more herculean arrangements quite yet, but the opening suggestions hold true.

Over to you, Tony.

## Cooking up a sexy leader?

I SMELL a rat. Not necessarily a love rat, as tabloid argot has it, though that, surely, too. I refer to Mr. Cook's extramarital stonewalling. There are accusations that we, the press, are making much of all this in an effort to destabilise Cook. I am beginning to think that we are being invited to witness what's going on in the Foreign Secretary's private life in order to shore him up.

Both Gordon Brown and Robin Cook apparently think that they are the rightful leaders of the Labour Party. Legend has it that Brown was disqualified, because he was unmarried (and now he seems in the process of acquiring a wife, or at least has managed to pull a consort) and Cook was ruled out because he was a turn-off. There may be more to this ploy to be seen as a spot and a Lothario than meets the unbelieveing eye.

## How scaremongers created an agriculture of fear

IN THE United States, as you will have seen in yesterday's paper, there is such a thing as a food disparagement law. This may go against everything we believe about Americans' respect for free speech, but such is the power held by food producers in that great country of theirs that anyone who badmouths a home-grown foodstuff risks being sued.

As yet no such law looks likely here. On the contrary, one of the most thriving businesses at the moment is that run by Scaremongers and Food-disparagers, inc (acting chairman, J. Cunningham). Yesterday we were told that food poisoning is at a record high and that not merely something bad but everything has to be done about it.

Twenty-two people died from food poisoning last year, which is tragic for the victims and almost as ghastly for their families. But this figure represents a great improvement — a hundred years ago, food was far more adulterated, far less safe than it is now, and many more people were laid low or killed by it.

I would not buy much of that vile stuff on the market that passes for food now. I don't buy meat from the supermarket, either. And without wishing to strike a latter-day Malthusianistic pose, I cannot help feeling that consumers who value cheapness over quality have a lot to answer for.

I am not a food-industry lobbyist, far from it. But scientists who peddle fictions, such as all those anti-meat medics, betray the fact-checking integrity of their calling.

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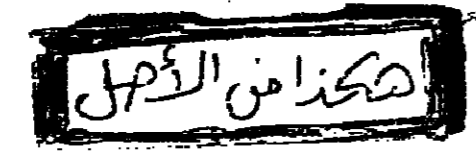
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Faye Sultan: "America has held on to the death penalty because we won't tolerate the idea that those people might be like us, let alone that we might have made them that way"

# Sympathy for serial killers

**Faye Sultan jabs her finger at the front page of the *Charlotte Observer*. Her local North Carolina paper bears the photograph that dominated almost every front page in America last week: two women clinging to each other, crumpled with grief. They are weeping because a jury did not give the death penalty to Terry Nichols, the second man accused of the Oklahoma bombing. To Sultan, a forensic and criminal psychologist for the past 15 years, the fact that "people are upset that someone isn't going to die" says volumes about modern America.**

Her first novel, *Over the Line*, will probably be enjoyed most by those who share her view that America's increasingly enthusiastic embrace of capital punishment is a barbaric anachronism. Within a month, Texas is due to execute Karla Paye Tucker, the first woman to face such a fate in the US since the death penalty was restored 20 years ago. "I think she will die," says Sultan, who is not connected with the case. "Texas has killed a lot of my clients." She believes that in her entire career, her testimony has helped to save four out of 40 defendants in capital trials. But her novel avoids the pitfalls of polemic. In a lesson to aspiring authors, the book was rejected in its original form as a non-fiction study of the psychology of murderers. *The Making of Monsters*. Recast as a novel, it found a publisher in two weeks on the basis of the first chapter. It is a gripping thriller — not least because of the page-turning pace constructed by her co-author, Theresa Kennedy — of a battle to save a serial killer from the death penalty by probing his childhood for the causes of his madness. The two women take the story of Jimmy Weir, "Jimmy the Weir", from the real-life case of Horace Benjamin Beach, who sliced up elderly women, had sex with them and then murdered them. The heroine, Portia McTeague, who like Sultan regularly testifies for the defence in criminal trials, races to unravel the secret of Jimmy's past to try to explain to an enraged jury how an ordinary boy abused by a violent, schizophrenic mother later became a killer. Her publishers hail Sultan as the new Patricia Cornwell, the forensic pathologist-turned-bestselling author. Clearly, they see Sultan's professional expertise as a goldmine (to the point of removing acknowledgement of Kennedy's indispensable role from the cover of the British edition). But Cornwell and Sultan are at opposite ends of the spectrum of American crime-writing. The former sees murderers as killing machines. Probing their motivation is pointless — evil behaviour is simply evil. Her approach produces genu-

inely-chilling moments and has so educated the American crime-reading public in the techniques of dissecting corpses to establish the cause of death that no writer now dares to show ignorance of that science. But Cornwell does not try to explain why people kill. As Sultan puts it: "Patsy Cornwell does not spend ages examining the internal motivation. She says people like me should not exist — we muddy the waters." Sultan thinks America has "held on to the death penalty because we won't tolerate the idea that those people might be like us, let alone that we might have made them that way". She says her client, Henry Louis Wallace, convicted a year ago of killing nine Charlotte women, "started out as a sweet little boy". She is right to point to an ambivalence in the US: that despite a fondness for psychological explanation, for the confessional and for personal transformation, there are some crimes so shocking that this tolerance is withheld. Both she and Cornwell strike a chord with the American public's fascination with serial killers and its belief that you are likely to be killed by a stranger. Her appeal in Britain is less certain. Explaining the motivation of, say, Myra Hindley to Middle England, she might find the response as unsympathetic as it would be in Texas. Nor does the psychological approach fit in with mainstream British detective fiction. Much of such writing, from P.D. James to Inspector Morse, still has roots in Wilkie Collins-like mysteries: people are killed by someone they know, often to secure a legacy. The only heavy-handed element in Sultan's writing is her desire to claim special insight, not just because of her professional experience, but also because of her own "secrets... carried in my head for so long". There is, she says in an author's note, "no difference" between her and her patients. Brought up by her mother and stepfather in Long Island, New York, she was "emotionally and physically abused" as a child. By her teenage years she "ran wild, was promiscuous and heading for the streets. By 13 or 14, I was mentally ill, withdrawn." But the parallel is not entirely convincing. Unlike her patients, she was letting herself slip within a middle-class community, a member of a school packed with concerned teachers and guidance coun-

## Duvets mean sleeping with the enemy

Derwent May goes on an undercover assignment

In Yorkshire they offer lessons in how to put a duvet cover on. You will not see me at the classes. At present, new duvets are floating like flocks of magic carpets on to people's beds. But not on to mine. I have never managed to cope with duvets — or continental quilts, as they used to be called. I am keenly aware of the changing temperature outside my bed. I have a pile of blankets of varying weight by the bed (going down, one summer, to a tea towel) and more than once in the night I may fling off the blanket I have on top and replace it with something heavier or lighter. I do this now without

**I have a pile of blankets of varying weight by the bed**

ly embroidered bedspreads are all right — though I should think pictures regularly go down under their impact, too — but I am not attracted by the pillow shams, which are matching cushions in the shape of pillows that are simply discarded at bedtime. To put one of those on your bed seems about as appropriate as putting one of those plastic imitation meals that you see in Japanese restaurant windows, on your dining table when you are out. And what about the clothes you wear in bed? The late John Crow, professor of English literature at King's College, London, told me a cautionary tale about those. He liked to wear a long nightshirt, and one day he was driving through a town when he saw some fine nightshirts in a high street window. He stopped, had a good look at them, then went in and bought one. As the shopkeeper was handing the wrapped-up parcel to Crow, he smiled at him. "Do you know, sir," he said, "this is the first time I have had the pleasure of providing one of these for a living man."

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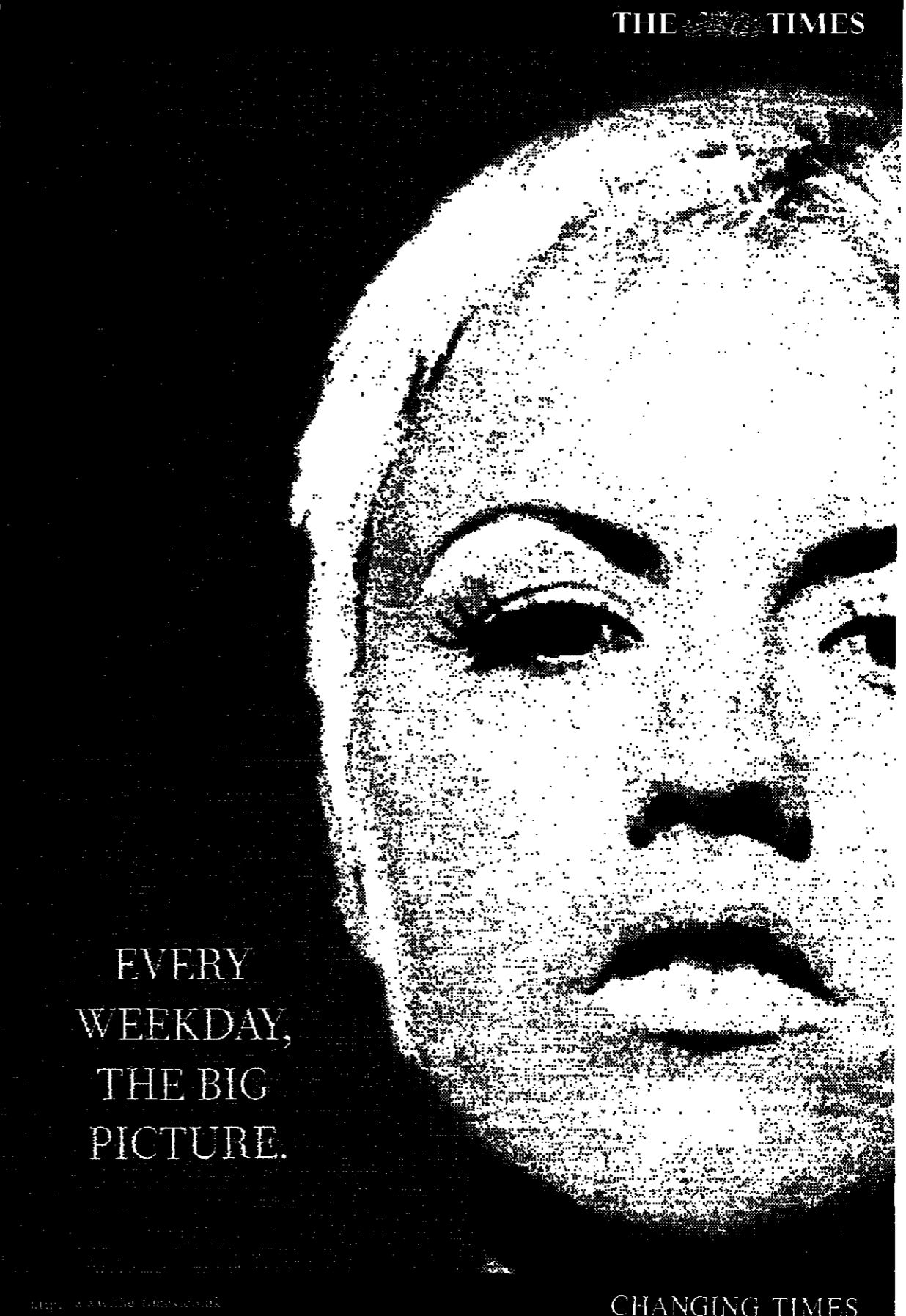
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PLATFORM FOR PEACE

Blair has shown wisdom in Ulster: he may yet need courage

It is far too soon to predict a new dawn in Ulster but not at all presumptuous to welcome the Government's plans for the province. The ideas unveiled this week are the best hope for Northern Ireland in years. Last week we urged the Prime Minister to publish a position paper on Monday which would explain how the Union might be modernised to accommodate nationalist concerns...

Welsh assemblies is a recognition of the shared cultural and economic ties which transcend these islands' borders and an appropriate framework within which specific Dublin-Belfast links can flourish. It is reassuring that such a proposed North-South ministerial council will consult, cooperate and take decisions only with the agreement of both the Dublin parliament and Belfast assembly. The prospect of Dublin allying with Northern nationalists to outvote Unionists and force the pace in such a body would have been contrary to the consensual spirit of the new institutions.

PRIMARY PRINCIPLES

Blunkett's instincts are right but need care in implementation

With considerable fanfare, the Government has launched what it has lauded as a substantial revision of the primary school curriculum. The renewed emphasis on literacy and numeracy is appropriate. It has been supported by teaching unions and will be welcomed by parents. The correct core problem - inadequate command of basic educational skills - has been identified. Mr Blunkett's instincts inspire considerable confidence. It remains uncertain, however, whether the proposals that he put forward yesterday will result in enough action. There may be costs too.

These lessons. The entire process is completely dependent on a "culture of change" and the influence of external inspections conducted every six years. Primary schools should make the most of their opportunity. Mr Blunkett has done his utmost to create a credible national literacy strategy. There will shortly be 200 new literacy co-ordinators in place and important alterations in teacher training courses have been developed. A similar plan for numeracy is in the offing. Teaching unions have protested that the inflexibility of the national curriculum renders the Government's stated targets impractical. They will not have that argument for much longer. Ministers have a solid case that reading and writing are the irreplaceable essentials for all other forms of learning. Successful schools - the ones exceeding official standards - will be unaffected by this shift in system. Less successful schools should respond to it.

FENN'S EAR

Bath has to deliver justice now for the sake of rugby

Rugby union is the team sport that comes closest to unarmed combat. At its best it deploys the physical skills of strength and speed, dexterity and agility. It is a great game because it provides roles for all sorts of athletes, the civilian equivalents of cavalry and infantry, tanks and long-range artillery to kick the goals. Played at the highest level it can be an exciting spectacle of controlled aggression and skill, courage and daring. So rugby has never been a sport for the faint-hearted. In the heat of the game, with fit young athletes fired up for victory, rules are always going to be broken and legal violence can become uncontrolled. Punctures are thrown and players kicked or raked with studs, out of frustration or blind rage. But biting off an opponent's ear is not just an infringement of the laws of the game. It is a crime against the idea of sport itself.

did last night, is to kick the ball into Cloud-Cuckoo-Land. Delay is damaging the club, the sport and the guilty player. It would be best if he came forward and confessed his responsibility even now. His identity will be known to others who were at the bottom of the rack, and the London Scottish video of the game apparently throws light on the incident. This was not an unfortunate accident to be covered up by the old boy network. It was not a punch thrown in hot blood, but cold savagery calculated to maim. Since rugby union turned professional, there is more at stake than pride. Bath's international players earn six-figure salaries. Top clubs such as Bath earn huge fees from television, sponsorship and increasingly from gate money. In sports of unarmed combat biting and eye-gouging have always been banned as dangerous and unsporting. Even ancient Olympic wrestlers, who did not always abide by their code, were disqualified and flogged if they were caught biting. Modern touch judges acting as supernumerary referees and television have made it almost impossible for foul play to remain undetected. And the players always know who did it anyway.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Self assessment: no second chance on tardy tax returns

From the Chairman of the Inland Revenue. Sir, May I comment on the call by Richard Shooter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for "a greater level of compassion" on the deadline for self-assessed tax returns (letter, January 10). By the end of last week we had received back 5.8 million returns, over 60 per cent of them from people who have completed them without needing help from tax advisers and to a high level of accuracy. Taxpayers and advisers alike have been generous in their praise of the high quality of the free help and advice they have received from our staff. More than 13,000 people contacted our telephone helpline over last weekend alone.

three years. We are now looking to them to make good on this. Yours faithfully, NICK MONTAGU, Chairman, Inland Revenue, The Board Room, Somerset House, WC2R 1LB, January 12. From Mr R. Stevens. Sir, In Saturday's Weekend Money a spokesman for the Revenue was quoted as saying "Not many people are sending in their returns at the moment. The suspicion must be that many have been completed and are sitting in agents' offices". I find this comment an insult to the vast majority of accountants throughout the country. It also shows just how far removed from the reality of the situation the Revenue has become. The position was outlined with great clarity in Mr Richard Shooter's letter. Agents are working their socks off in our efforts to meet the deadline. What hope is there for the smooth running of the new system and co-operation between the Revenue and agents with such unhelpful comments as this? Perhaps the powers that be should step into their general offices, speak to the hard-working staff there, and find out what is really going on.

An example to the dome dissenters

From Mrs José Manser. Sir, When the Labour Government decided to hold the 1951 Festival of Britain they first appointed Gerald Barry, the festival's main instigator, as its director general. Barry, then editor of the News Chronicle, was an astute and imaginative man who in the summer of 1948 made the architect Hugh Casson director of architecture for the whole project and chairman of a small design committee. Casson recalled years later that Herbert Morrison, the government minister in charge, was a tower of strength and support. The Evening Standard christened Morrison Lord Festival and launched an assault on what it called his "multi-million pound baby". Other Tory newspapers joined in a barrage of insults and abuse. Casson ignored it all. When appointing him Morrison had said: "I don't want to know how it's going. Just get on with it, and come back only if you're in real trouble." Casson defied the next two years to get on with it. He knew the creative world intimately, and selected the designers, artists and architects to whom he then delegated responsibility. His was a brilliant appointment. As well as being an immensely creative man - as his subsequent career proved - he was endowed with charm, an ability to spot talent in others, and a stated dislike of unpleasant confrontations. Many people contributed to the festival, but it was his diplomacy, his drive, his work as a publicist and his powers of leadership which, beyond anyone else's, drove it along to its hugely successful conclusion. I'm rather against constant reference to the past. But in this case, perhaps Peter Manser should remember and take heed of his grandfather's non-interventionist methods all those years ago. Yours faithfully, JOSÉ MANSER, Morton House, Chiswick Mall, W4 2PS, January 12.

Use of referendums

From Mr M. J. C. Tweedie. Sir, The Conservative leader's call last week for an inquiry into allegations of irregularities in the count at the Welsh referendum raises the wider issue of the use of referendums within the British constitution. Although referendums are widely perceived as the ultimate democratic test, the difficulty of presenting a complex issue as a single question makes them open to abuse in the face of media manipulation or bias; and a decision by majority vote in a referendum conducted on the 51:49 principle carries the danger of creating a nation split by polarised views or, even worse, of oppressive legislation against the freedom of a substantial minority. There could be merit in the time-honoured wisdom of the countless thousands of clubs, institutions and companies whose rules state that certain changes in their constitution require a higher level of support than a simple majority - perhaps with an endorsement by, say, two thirds of the vote. Over the next few years this country is to be faced with some of its most momentous and irrevocable decisions, affecting its currency and its constitution, which may or may not be decided by referendum. Before we get to that point it would be a sensible safeguard, and comfort to those who fear for their minority views, if legislation could be brought before Parliament to ensure that enactment following a referendum on fundamental issues should require more than a simple majority vote. Yours faithfully, CHARLES TWEEDIE, Lower Upton, Little Hereford, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 4BB, January 12.

Police powers on drink-driving

From Professor K. T. V. Grattan. Sir, The Christmas drink-drive campaign figures for England and Wales (report, January 8) do not provide meaningful support for the call from chief constables for "wider police powers to stop suspected drink-drivers". They show that the number of positive tests after collisions averaged 9 per cent, inflating the "failure rate", which even then showed that 91 per cent of motorists involved in collisions tested negative. Extrapolating the sample for the average number of tests (given for 12 forces) to all 43 forces seems to imply that more than 125,000 tests were carried out of which just over 1 per cent showed a positive result after a collision, a relatively small figure. Figures cited separately for Scotland a few days ago which I heard on BBC radio (report, January 6), indicated that only about one in 200 motorists tested was positive, an improvement over the previous year. Surely the way to reduce accidents is to target the real factors involved in most collisions, which are not linked to drink-driving. The Assistant Commissioner's refusal to make a clear comparison with the previous figures because he wishes to use only figures after accidents does not show the efficacy of the campaign and the public's response. Motorists should be praised for not drinking excessively this year, not threatened with a further relaxation of breath-test restrictions. The Scottish figures indicate that testing is becoming random. Yours faithfully, K. T. V. GRATTAN, City University, School of Engineering, Department of Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering, Northampton Square, EC1V 0HB, January 8.

dom by the police is not illegal. Under section 163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 a person driving a mechanically propelled vehicle must stop the vehicle on being required to do so by a constable in uniform. However, it is only following an accident, or when a constable has reasonable cause to suspect under section 6 of the same Act that the motorist has alcohol in his body, or has committed a traffic offence while the vehicle was in motion that the constable may lawfully require a breath test. Yours sincerely, MICHAEL GOULD (Senior lecturer), Staffordshire University, Law School, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 2DF, January 6. From Mr Robert Poole. Sir, Mary Ann Sieghart advocates "moderate" drink-driving, on the grounds that it makes going out more fun and doesn't cause nearly as many deaths and injuries as "serious" drink-driving ("Don't be a killjoy, Mr Blair", January 1; see also letters, January 6). It's all a question, she suggests, of "a balance of risk against reward". If drink-drivers threatened only themselves she would have a point - but they don't. Why should I and my family, who do not even drive, be expected to shoulder the risk of sharing the roads with drink-drivers in order for them to have more "fun... going out"? Drink-driving is a question of rights, not of anonymous "risk against reward". The sooner the limit is reduced to as near zero as practicable, the sooner these drivers will stop forcing their selfish priorities on the rest of us. Yours etc, ROBERT POOLE, 12 Davidson Street, Lancaster LA1 1BE, r.poole@lanaster.ac.uk, January 6.

Fax offenders

From the Director of ICSTIS. Sir, Dr David Parker (letter, January 1) complains about misuse of the fax system by companies which seek to profit by soliciting premium-rate replies to faxes which they send out to the "unwary". ICSTIS, the industry regulator for premium-rate telephone services, has received an increasing number of such complaints in recent months. It addresses them, as well as others from people offended or irritated by receiving such faxes, by applying its code of practice to the service providers concerned. This code is backed up by powerful sanctions; in some recent cases involving fax services, fines have been imposed. By registering with the direct marketing industry's fax preference service (0541 554 555 - calls charged at national rate) owners of faxes operated from home can have their number removed from the lists used by companies which send promotions by fax and choose to subscribe to the scheme. Complaints about premium-rate services can be made to ICSTIS, free of charge, on 0800 500 212. Yours faithfully, SARAH HARRISON, Director, ICSTIS (Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services), Alton House, 177 High Holborn, WC1V 7AA, January 5.

Communion bread

From the Reverend Peter Hancock. Sir, Discussion of what Jesus said at the Last Supper is always interesting (letters, December 27, January 3) but, sadly, it is often divisive. "This is my body" seems very straightforward and uncomplicated, but what does "this" signify? The late Bishop Chavasse of Rochester used to point out that the Anglican liturgy was the only one that insisted that the bread should be broken at this point. (This is so in the Book of Common Prayer, but is no longer obligatory in the revised Alternative Service Book of 1980.) Perhaps the word "this" points not so much to the substance of the loaf - ie, its "breadiness" - but rather to its condition, its brokenness. Some of us always break the bread at the word "this". Yours faithfully, PETER HANCOCK, Roughwood Oak, Deadheart Lane, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4HG, January 6. Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Lottery reserves

From the Director of the UK Committee of the National Lottery Charities Board. Sir, Mr Denis Vaughan (letter, January 9) claims there are delays in the allocation of lottery funds. The National Lottery Charities Board awards grants for up to three years. Charities draw the money down when they need it, so inevitably not all our grants are paid when initially awarded. Some existing awards will continue to benefit communities for years to come. Mr Vaughan also refers to Anne Faulkner's claim (letter, January 5) that the National Lottery is not making awards to the smaller medical research charities. In fact most of the 43 awards we made for medical research projects in December 1996, totalling £6.8 million, went to such charities. We are running a second grants programme for health and social research charities later this year. Yours faithfully, GERALD OPPENHEIM, Director, UK Committee, National Lottery Charities Board, St Vincent House, 16 Suffolk Street, SW1Y 4NL, January 12.

Millennium spirit

From Sir Terence Conran. Sir, There can be a huge difference between what one says and the way in which the press reports it. Following Stephen Bayley's resignation as the Millennium Dome's creative director (report, January 12) I was phoned by a journalist of another newspaper over the weekend. She asked me a number of questions concerning the contents of the Dome, and we talked about the extent to which it might have an explicitly Christian theme. Contrary to the paper's sensational headline, I did not say that there was "no room for Jesus"; one of the nine zones in the dome will examine "the spirit", and as a part of this I would have thought that religion in general and Christianity in particular will be considered. Nonetheless, I do personally feel it would be wholly inappropriate for the Dome to have an overriding Christian theme: there are enough empty churches around the country without adding one the size of Mayfair to their number. I would be surprised if you could find many people to endorse your view (leading article, January 13) that the millennium "has the significance it does because of He whose incarnation in Flesh it commemorates". Its appeal derives from a mix of superstition, numerology, science fiction and the like. Finally, I must stress that I am not a consultant on the dome. I do, however, wish it the greatest success, and believe that it has the opportunity to do great things for our country. Yours faithfully, TERENCE CONRAN, 22 Shad Thames, SE1 2YU, January 13.

Staff of life

From the Director of The Federation of Bakers. Sir, Mr Paul Kember (letter, January 9) is incorrect in his assumption that bread containing soya bean products is likely to contain genetically modified material. This federation represents the leading bakery companies in the UK, responsible for producing 80 per cent of the nation's bread, and I can assure him that soya flour is used in all bread products in such small amounts that it has been possible to ensure that soya supplies to the whole bread industry are sourced from conventionally produced crops in Canada. Yours faithfully, A. CASDAGLI, Director, The Federation of Bakers, 20 Bedford Square, WC1B 3HF, January 9.

Poor lookout

From Mr Philip J. D. Thomas. Sir, It is to be hoped that those responsible for designing the new superliners (photograph and City Commentary, January 7) have more vision than the Holland America cruise line, which is currently offering me a cabin with "a fully obstructed view". Yours faithfully, PHILIP THOMAS, 15 Crowhurst Mead, Godstone, Surrey RH9 8BF, January 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM NORFOLK January 13: Mrs Christian Adams has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 13: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, this morning visited the

Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK January 13: Princess Alexandra, President, today visited the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen at Richmond, Surrey.

Royal engagements The Princess Royal, as President, Royal Yachting Association, will attend the International Boat Show at Earls Court, at 11.15; as Patron, British School of Osteopathy, will open their new premises, 275 Borough High Street, London SE1, at 2.45; and as President, British Knitting and Textiles Export Council, will attend the British Apparel Export Awards, the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London W2, at 7.15.

Donald Horobin A Memorial Service will be held for Donald Horobin, former Deputy Editor of ITN, at noon on Wednesday, January 21, at St Bridget's Church, 27 St Pancras Avenue, London EC4. Those wishing to attend should phone Pauline Heard on 0171 430 4750 or fax 0171 430 4082.

Dinner St Edmund Hall, Oxford The London dinner of the St Edmund Hall Association was held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's, Mr Dudley Wood, president, was in the chair. The President of St Edmund Hall and Lady Tutin, Mr and Mrs Justin Gosling, Mr Hugh McManners and the Presidents of the Middle and Junior Common rooms were the guests.

Memorial service

Dr Michael van Cleeve A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Michael van Cleeve, Emeritus Professor of Templeton College, Oxford, was held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral, The Very Rev Colin Slee, Provost, officiated, assisted by the Rev Professor Peter J. Gomes, Rector, Minister of the Memorial Church, Harvard University, Boston, Mr Ian Molson and Dr Rory Knight, Dean of Templeton College, read the lessons and Mr William D. Iselin (son-in-law) read Death is nothing at all by Canon Henry Scott Holland.

Birthdays today

Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Private Secretary to the Queen Mother, 67; Professor Sir Melville Arnot, cardiologist, 89; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 64; Baroness Brooke of Ystradgynlais, 90; Baroness Byford, 87; Lord Cato, 75; the Earl of Drogheda, 61; Miss Faye Dunaway, actress, 52; Miss Mairia Gledhill, ballerina, 52; Miss Andrea Grenfell, former managing director, Gleny International, 58; Miss Sophie Harris, fashion designer, 33; Sir Martin Holland, president, Zoological Society of London, 67; Sir Arthur Hooke, former President, Law Society, 74; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, FRS, former Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 62; Mr John Lewis, Headmaster, Canford School, 46; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 72; Lieutenant-Colonel Nigel Newman, Chaplain General of the City of London, 62; Sir Arthur Hooke, former President, Law Society, 74; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, FRS, former Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 62; Mr John Lewis, Headmaster, Canford School, 46; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 72; Lieutenant-Colonel Nigel Newman, Chaplain General of the City of London, 62.

Concert

Royal Over-Sea League The Royal Over-Sea League held a concert last night at the Wigmore Hall, featuring Mr Robert Fraser, clarinet, Mr Philip Dukes, viola, Ms Liwei Qin, cello, and Ms Sophia Rahman, piano. Prize-winners in the league's past annual Commonwealth music competition.



Platts Hall - dominated by factory gantries and towers and at risk from the caustic atmosphere

Manor house is on the move after 300 years

By Russell Jenkins

A DECAYING 300-year-old hall is to be dismantled by timber, moved from the shadow of an industrial plant, and rebuilt.

Platts Hall, a Grade II listed half-timbered manor house dating to 1631, has been allowed to fall into rack and ruin on its present site where it is dwarfed by metal towers of the Brunner Mond chemical manufacturing complex in Northwich, Cheshire. Specialist contractors will begin work in March. They hope that much of the inside timber frame, chimney, fireplaces, oak panelling and staircases can be preserved. Once stripped, each frame will be photographed, catalogued, drawn and labelled before being dismantled joint by joint. The timbers will be taken to Leominster, in Hereford, where they will be restored and repaired. Then the

timber frame structure will be rebuilt among 68 newly restored period homes at Bostock Hall. It is scheduled to go on the market next autumn. The archaeologists aim to carry out an extensive survey of the site of the house. They already believe that parts of the structure dated 1665 replaced earlier buildings.

Peter Livesey, the developer, said: "Bostock Hall was in a very sorry state when I discovered it but we could see its potential and the company felt that a building like Platts Hall would fit in perfectly with our plans. It will be restored for use as a home again."

Mark Hicks, a director of the construction company Border Oak, said: "Our research shows that old half-timbered homes were put together like jigsaws. The massive oak beams form the structural skeleton for the roof and walls and are joined together by mortice and tenon joints, secured by oak pegs."

The caustic nature of the atmosphere has not been kind to the timbers. Jamie Quartermaine, project manager for Lancaster University Archaeology Unit, said: "If it stayed where it is for much longer, the building would not have survived." Specialist contractors will begin work in March. They hope that much of the inside timber frame, chimney, fireplaces, oak panelling and staircases can be preserved. Once stripped, each frame will be photographed, catalogued, drawn and labelled before being dismantled joint by joint. The timbers will be taken to Leominster, in Hereford, where they will be restored and repaired. Then the

School news

Harrigate Ladies' College College opened for the Spring Term on Monday, January 12. Entrance tests for September 1998 take place on Wednesday, January 21. The First Laneway XII depart for a tour of the South on Friday, January 23, returning Monday, January 26. The North Schools Lacrosse Tournament for U14 is at Darlington on Saturday, January 24, and U15 at the Wirral on Saturday, March 14. The Scottish Schools Lacrosse Tournament is on Friday, February 6, and the AEWLA Championships take place at Millton Keynes on Tuesday, March 3. The Junior Drama Club present Cinderella on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 6, 7 and 8, and the Drama Group presents Children in Uniform on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 20, 21 and 22. St Michael's Hospice

Reception

The Royal Academy of Engineering Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and Lady Davies, were hosts at a reception for fellows and their guests held at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, last night. The President's Award, awarded for initiative in promoting excellence in engineering, was presented to Mr Keith Duckworth, Honorary Life President of Co-Founder and past Chairman of Co-Founder Engineering. Dr John Forrest, FEng, delivered a lecture 'The Return of the Glamour: Amphitheatre to Internet'. The Ven Alexander Francis Knight, Archbishop of Birmingham and a Canon Residentiary at Winchester Cathedral has been appointed Dean of Lincoln Cathedral.

Church news

The Ven Alexander Francis Knight, Archbishop of Birmingham and a Canon Residentiary at Winchester Cathedral has been appointed Dean of Lincoln Cathedral.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Balsh and Dr K.E. Edward The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Philip and Eva Balsh, of London, and Katherine, daughter of David and Elizabeth Edward, of Edinburgh and Lonsborough. Mr J.C. Carey and Miss A.J. Broadley The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of the late Mr Peter Carey and of Mrs Elizabeth Carey, of Grassington, North Yorkshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Broadley, of Upper Jordan, Worplesdon, Surrey. Mr A. Cramming and Miss C. Johnson The engagement is announced between Allan, son of the late Mr and Mrs Alfred Barclay Cumming, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Caroline, daughter of the late William Edward Johnson and of Mrs Dorothy May Johnson, of Tillingham, Essex.

Mr G.F. Herchman and Miss D. Phillips The engagement is announced between Ronald, son of Mrs Eve Herchman and the late Mr Joseph Herchman, of Manor House, London, and Deborah, daughter of Mrs Pam Phillips and of Llanfyllbach, North Wales. Mr A.J.T. Lyde and Miss L.A. Godsal The engagement is announced between Toby, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs John Lyde, of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Godsal, of Sundridge, Kent.

Anniversaries

Mr G.F. Herchman and Miss D. Phillips The engagement is announced between Ronald, son of Mrs Eve Herchman and the late Mr Joseph Herchman, of Manor House, London, and Deborah, daughter of Mrs Pam Phillips and of Llanfyllbach, North Wales.

Funeral Arrangements

Mr G.F. Herchman and Miss D. Phillips The engagement is announced between Ronald, son of Mrs Eve Herchman and the late Mr Joseph Herchman, of Manor House, London, and Deborah, daughter of Mrs Pam Phillips and of Llanfyllbach, North Wales.

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BIRTHS
SANDRINGHAM - On January 6th at the Norfolk Hospital, to Mr and Mrs John Sandringham, a lovely daughter, Holly, a sister for Rachel.

DEATHS
CASHBELL - Michael John Paul, dear husband of Paul Jean and son of Mrs Jean and Mr George Cashbell, passed away peacefully at home on 12th January 1998.

BIRTHS
MAGNAN - On January 6th at the Norfolk Hospital, to Mr and Mrs John Magnan, a lovely daughter, Holly, a sister for Rachel.

DEATHS
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OBITUARIES

ROGER CLARK

Roger Clark, MBE, international rally driver, died of a stroke on January 12 aged 58. He was born on August 5, 1939.

FOR at least 15 years in the 1960s and 1970s, Roger Clark set standards by which every other British rally driver had to measure himself. He won the RAC International Rally twice, in 1972 and 1976, and until the early 1990s he was the only British driver ever to have won a World Championship rally.

In his driving style, exuberant and with fearless flair and balance, he was a complete natural. Those asking him to analyse his methods were always met with a smile, "I dunno", and total indifference; as far as Clark was concerned, he had been born with rallying genius, and never questioned that innate ability.

The gulf between his unique approach and the technique of today's highly-trained drivers is immense. He was naturally indolent, and far happier to have a drink with his friends than to carry out further practice runs. Although he was always indulgent with sponsors (and starred in TV adverts for several of them), he was a stranger to physical exercise or to a rigorous sportsman's diet.

From 1964, when he won the Scottish Rally for the first time, until the twilight of his career, he was the only British driver who could match the Scandinavians' speed on loose surfaces.

Born in Northborough, Leicester, where his family was running a small bus business, he grew up among motor cars, left Hindley Grammar School as soon as was decently possible, and joined the family business in the 1950s.

He soon took up motor sport, originally in an elderly Ford van, later in small Ford saloons borrowed from the garage, and eventually in a Mini-Cooper. By then he had teamed up with Jim Porter, who became his regular co-driver in a 20-year partnership, and the first victories soon followed.

His first factory-sponsored drives came in 1963, for Reliant, and later for Triumph. Then, after two seasons with Rover, he joined Ford for 15 years. After winning the standard-car category in the 1965 Monte Carlo Rally in a Rover 2000, and winning three international rallies in his self-prepared Cortinas, he became a pivotal member of the celebrated Ford factory team.

It was in a whole variety of Ford Escorts — which he drove from 1968 until the 1980s — that he became the most successful British rally driver of all time. Starting with victory in the 1968 Circuit of Ireland, and ending with a win in Cyprus in 1980, he won events on every continent.

Clark and the increasingly fast Ford Escorts were made for each other. In a car set up to maximise his talents, he was always flamboyant, yet always in control. Commentators began to expect victories, which only mechanical break-



Roger Clark, left, with Martin Brundle at the 1996 RAC Rally at Silverstone

downs seemed to prevent. At his peak there was no British driver, and very few European ones, who could match his pace and versatility.

He crashed only rarely — so rarely that such occurrences made headlines — and he always praised his cars for his record: "I don't care how far sideways I am," he once quipped. "As long as I'm not actually looking out of the back window, I should be able to get it back in line."

Mechanical disasters, rather than his own shortcomings, ensured he did not win as many major events as he deserved. In 1968, he was only hours from victory in the first London-Sydney Marathon when his Lotus-Cortina's engine failed, and he deserved to win the East African Safari more than once in the 1970s before his cars disintegrated under him. Sometimes, too, he would follow his employers' whim, driving uncompetitive cars when it suited them. Driving a Ford Zodiac in Eastern Europe, an unproved GT170 in France, and a Ford Taunus in the Monte Carlo Rally were perhaps not among his finest hours.

He could, on the other hand, served. In 1968, he was only hours from victory in the first London-Sydney Marathon when his Lotus-Cortina's engine failed, and he deserved to win the East African Safari more than once in the 1970s before his cars disintegrated under him. Sometimes, too, he would follow his employers' whim, driving uncompetitive cars when it suited them. Driving a Ford Zodiac in Eastern Europe, an unproved GT170 in France, and a Ford Taunus in the Monte Carlo Rally were perhaps not among his finest hours.

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LADY TAYLOR

Lady Taylor (Dr Charity Taylor), former Assistant Director of Prisons, died on January 4 aged 83. She was born on September 16, 1914.

IN A prison service career spanning some 24 years, Dr Charity Taylor had a profound influence on the Women's Prison Service. For most of that period she was Governor of Holloway, the first woman to take charge of the largest English women's prison. In 1959 she was promoted to the rank of assistant director of prisons and was given responsibility for the entire system of prison establishments for women and girls.

May Dorothy Charity Clifford, as she was before her marriage, was born in Woking, Surrey, the daughter of a journalist. She was educated at Huntingdon Grammar School. She trained to be a doctor at the London Royal Free School of Medicine for Women. On qualifying she took up posts at the Royal Free Hospital and at the all-woman Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

In 1939 she married Dr Stephen Taylor, who subsequently became Labour MP for Barnet, 1945-50 and was created a life peer in 1958.

She was first appointed to the Prison Service in 1942, as an assistant medical officer at Holloway Prison. Quickly promoted to medical officer, she was then appointed governor of the prison in 1948, a post that had previously been the exclusive preserve of men. So this was a radical appointment, particularly as she was only 30 years old at the time. But she was very able and proved to have great natural ability for the essentials of being a prison governor, holding that difficult balance between the requirements of security and the encouraging of positive treatment and training for her charges. The Prison Commissioners acknowledged her success in 1949 by promoting her to be the first woman governor class one.

Faced with many stressful situations at Holloway, including the last execution of a woman prisoner, Ruth Ellis in 1955, Charity Taylor showed a natural ability to cope, and a firm approach coupled with a fine sense of humour. A good listener, she had a very straightforward and down-to-earth approach to prison problems. She soon developed considerable understanding of the difficulties facing many of her prisoners, and was imaginative and flexible in development.

Charity Taylor quickly proved a most effective leader at headquarters, attracting great loyalty from her governors and their staffs as she encouraged best practice in the treatment and training of women prisoners. She was especially concerned to see that the staff of the women's service achieved at least the same standards as applied in the much larger male service. It was, therefore, a great loss for the Prison Service when she decided to take early retirement in 1966 at the age of 52, following her husband's appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada. At the time the Prison Service was reeling under the twin blows of the escape of the spy George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs and the subsequent criticism of the service in the Mountbatten report.

During her period as assistant director Charity Taylor also served as a member of the general advisory council of the BBC. After her retirement in 1966, and during the five years her husband spent at the Memorial University, she became president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Social Welfare Council from 1968 to 1971.

Her husband died in 1986, but she is survived by her two sons and one daughter.



ROBERT SUTTON

Robert William Sutton, OBE, electronics engineer, died on December 14, aged 92. He was born on November 13, 1905.

ALTHOUGH radar was being used before the war it was the development of microwave radar that made the decisive technological leap. The "Jot tube" was an essential component in every microwave radar set used during the war.

Born in London, Robert Sutton spent his childhood in St John's Wood. His father, William Sutton, approaching 50 when he was born, was a violinist and a founder member of the London Symphony Orchestra, and Robert played the piano from an early age. In 1926 he went to Imperial College, London, where he read physics. He climbed in the Alps with George Finch, and learnt to fly in the university flying club. Before he finished his doctorate, he was offered a job at Ferranti in Manchester to set up an electronic valve factory. In the mid-1930s he moved to a similar job at E. K. Cole in Southend.

Shortly before the outbreak of war he joined the Signal School at Portsmouth to build up a team to develop special valves for the rapidly expanding radar programme. In June 1940, after the fall of France, the outfit moved to the H. H. Wills Physics Laboratory at Bristol University.

Although in the late 1930s radar was being used for aircraft detection, it was very different from the radar we know today, providing nothing like the accurate information about direction and range made possible by microwave technology.

Early radar used wavelengths down to about 50cm, which squeezed the current technology to the limit using tiny valves. It was clear that a significantly shorter wavelength would bring many benefits, but this required several technological breakthroughs, with which Sutton was associated.

After an extraordinarily productive few months, his team demonstrated a practical, tunable, low-noise oscillator in September 1940, and it became known as the Sutton tube. Herbert Skinner of the Telecommunications Research Establishment at Swinney developed a practical silicon crystal mixer in early 1941.

Within months microwave radar was displacing the earlier equipment, because of its clear superiority. This was an extremely important technological lead throughout the war. It became possible to spot submarines at the surface. Ground features could be seen at night by "HS2" radar in bombers, and even small fighter aircraft could have compact "aircraft interception" radar installed.

Various modifications and improvements were subsequently made. A stripped-down Sutton tube containing a gas at low pressure (technically termed "soft") was developed into a switching device

nicknamed the "soft Sutton", and Robert was fond of recounting how he was introduced in America as "Soft Sutton".

After the war he set up the Services Electronics Research Laboratory in Baldock, an inter-service laboratory for electronic device development, where he was superintendent until his retirement in 1968. Here many notable contributions in research and technology were made in various fields of electronics, notably the development of light-emitting diodes, neutron source valves, and lasers.

Sutton disliked hierarchy and insisted on management by consent. At meetings, all decisions had to be unanimous. He enjoyed arguing a controversial case, and was quick to spot a flaw in an argument, but would immediately concede defeat if he could not sustain his side.

In 1951 Sutton married Elizabeth Wright, the sister of his longstanding friend Paul Wright (and of Peter Wright, later the author of *Spycatcher*). They had two daughters and a son, and when the family moved into a house in Baldock, he was at last able to move his grand piano out of his office where it had been for a number of years. He was appointed OBE in 1946.

Sutton always kept in touch with developments in science and technology. In his retirement he studied quantum mechanics, evolutionary biology and the question of consciousness. He was also fond of complicated hand knitting.

He loved gadgets, and progressed from pocket calculators to surfing the Internet in his nineties. To fulfil a long-held ambition, he also took helicopter-flying lessons at 90.

He is survived by his three children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

A grid of various classified advertisements including: TICKETS FOR SALE, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, LEGAL NOTICES, ALL TICKETS!, FOR SALE, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, UK HOLIDAYS, WINTER SPORTS, UP TO 60% DISCOUNT ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE, WORLD LINK, and Flight Seekers.

CURRENT EVENTS ON THE SCREEN ON THIS DAY January 14, 1937

THE OVERWORKED COMMENTATOR The news reel is at least as old as the film of entertainment, but its possibilities have been strangely neglected. Only now — with The March of Time and kindred experiments — is there a respectable effort to sift the facts that are collected in gazettes of current events and to discover a form appropriate to the sifting process.



# THE TIMES

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TODAY



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14 1998

## UK delay on euro could make sterling volatile

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's decision to delay joining a single currency could increase the pound's volatility, thus damaging industry, a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee said yesterday.

Professor Goodhart, also gave warning that the future

European Central Bank could prove to be insufficiently accountable and Europe should examine the "well-designed processes" in the UK for an alternative model. If the ECB missed its inflation target,

there is no clear accountability for sanctions to be put in place or for the removal of personnel", he said.

Professor Goodhart, who is regarded as one of the more hawkish members of the Monetary Policy Committee, also told the committee that the Asian crisis is likely to subside inflation worldwide, reducing the need for interest rate rises.

His comments coincided with the publication of data that showed a fall in the UK inflation rate for the first time since April. Headline inflation fell from an annual rate of 3.7 to 3.6 per cent in December. Underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest

payments, also fell 0.1 point to 2.7 per cent, although it remains above the Government's target measure of 2.5 per cent.

Economists were unanimous that the inflation data further removed the need for the Bank of England to raise rates again in the near term and predicted that inflation would fall further this month because of the January sales.

The US also produced a benign set of inflation data yesterday, with the consumer prices index rising just 0.1 point in December, leaving the annual rate at 1.7 per cent — the lowest since 1986.

## Resilient Wall St helps US diplomacy to calm Asian markets

AMERICA'S shuttle diplomacy in Asia, coupled with a resilient performance on Wall Street, brought some stability to financial markets in the region yesterday (Janet Bush writes).

Confidence was bolstered by a more optimistic tone emerging from Indonesia. After intensive talks in Jakarta, Larry Summers, Deputy Treasury

Secretary, expressed confidence that President Suharto is prepared to embrace economic reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund.

The sense of panic in Asian markets had already partly dissipated, thanks to Wall Street's rise of nearly 70 points on Monday, but the presence of Mr Summers and a top-level delegation from the IMF in the region also helped to bolster confidence.

Janet Bush, page 27

## Guinness chief executive poached by ICI

By PAUL DURMAN

ICI has recruited Brendan O'Neill from Guinness to be its chief operating officer, making him the favourite to succeed Charles Miller Smith as chief executive next year.

Dr O'Neill, 49, is chief executive of Guinness, the recently renamed brewing arm of Diageo, the company formed from the merger of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness. He is the most significant of a series of management appointments ICI is making before next year's retirement of Sir Ronald



O'Neill: tipped to take over Hampel, its chairman. Mr Miller Smith, 58, has agreed to take over as chairman when Sir Ronald leaves in April 1999 after 43 years with the chemicals group.

board had still to take a decision on who would succeed him as chief executive, and would not rule out other candidates. He said Dr O'Neill had emerged as an "outstanding" choice from a worldwide search. Besides Dr O'Neill's record at improving profits at Guinness Brewing, Mr Miller Smith cited his experience of consumer markets, which ICI considers increasingly important now that it is heavily involved in making chemicals that go into food, fragrances and toiletries.

Drinks analysts generally said they had a high regard for Dr O'Neill but observed that his role was much diminished in the enlarged Diageo. Diageo has filled the gap by promoting Dr O'Neill's deputy Colin Storm, who is 59.

Dr O'Neill was paid £468,000 at Guinness in 1996, including bonus. ICI would not say what he will receive as salary. Mr Miller Smith was paid £516,000 in 1996.

Rob Margets, the ICI director who runs the group's remaining industrial chemicals businesses, will become vice-chairman in May, handing over responsibility for the materials division to Dr O'Neill. Mr Margets will also assume responsibility for technology, safety, health and the environment.

John McAdam, 49, chairman of Quest International, acquired from Unilever last year, will become executive vice-president of coatings and chief executive of ICI Paints. Paul Drechsler will take over as chairman of Quest. Joe McCollum, 40, joins from Lion Nathan, as senior vice-president for human resources.

Commentary, page 25  
Gentle giant, page 27



Lord Blyth, chief executive, saw shares at Boots drop 6.4 per cent after reporting lower than expected sales growth

## Boots shares catch a cold

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Boots suffered their sharpest one-day fall in eight years yesterday after the retailer turned in lower-than-expected Christmas sales growth.

The shares fell 58p to 847p, losing 6.4 per cent of their value, after Boots said that the mild winter undermined demand for cold remedies.

The City's concerns centred on the success of Boots' loyalty card — which some felt was in danger of giving away too much profit through its 4 per cent price reduction. Boots said its Advantage card spoke for 24 per cent of its counter sales in the final quarter of last year.

Kingfisher, the Woolworths to Comet retail chain, said its overall sales rose 10.9 per cent — contrasting sharply with the 6.8 per cent increase managed across Boots' divisions.

Shares of Kingfisher jumped 27p to a high of 912p as analysts upgraded profit forecasts from £455 million to £470 million. Profits at Boots, where Lord Blyth of Rowington, is chief executive, are expected to fall to £50 million from £57 million.

Tempus, page 26

## MacKenzie given top post at Mirror Group

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

KELVIN MacKENZIE, former editor of *The Sun* and the man who has presided over Topless Darts, News Bury and the weather forecast read in Norwegian on LIVE TV, is to become deputy chief executive and group managing director of the Mirror Group.

In his new role Mr MacKenzie will have operational control over the Mirror Group's national newspapers, *The Mirror*, *The Sunday Mirror* and *The People* as well as its television interests.

The deputy chief executive's job is a new post designed to give David Montgomery, the chief executive, more time to spend on strategy.

Charles Wilson, 62, the present group managing director, wants to retire. Talks are

continuing to try to persuade him to retain a role in overseeing the running of *The Racing Post* and *The Sporting Life* from the same stable if regulatory approval is granted.

In the restructuring there will also be an expanded role for Chris Oakley, who runs Midland Independent Newspapers, acquired by the Mirror Group last year. In future, he will also be in overall charge of the *Scottish Daily Record* in Glasgow and the *Belfast Newsletter*.

## GUS stake sold by Wolfson trust for £261m

By JASON NISSE

THE Wolfson foundation, the charitable trust chaired by Lord Wolfson of Marylebone, yesterday sold more than half its stake in Great Universal Stores, the mail order group that Lord Wolfson chaired until 18 months ago.

The foundation, whose trustees also include Lady Wolfson and their two daughters, Janet and Laura, sold 36.7 million shares at 712p, raising £261 million.

The shares were placed with institutional shareholders at 719p each, giving City stockbrokers, led by Morgan Stanley, a profit of £240,000 on the deal. GUS shares fell 22p to 731p. The foundation will retain a stake of just under 3 per cent in GUS.

Lord Wolfson succeeded his father, Sir Isaac, as chairman of GUS, but stood down in August 1996 in favour of his cousin, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the former Next chairman.

David Tyler, GUS's finance director, said he thought the only surprising thing about the sale was that it had not happened sooner. "It is quite unusual for a charitable institution to have quite such a concentration of its assets in one investment," he said.

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## Resignations signal end of Liberty battle



The Regent Street store is a top priority for Philip Bowman

THE bitter fight for control of Liberty came to a head yesterday, when four directors of the group resigned en masse, along with its advisers, and Philip Bowman, the former finance director of Bass, was installed as chairman.

Andrew Garety, Ian Thomson, Brian Perry and Evie Scarnes stood down under pressure from shareholders speaking for 52 per cent of the Liberty shares. Liberty's advisers — ING Barings, Cazenove, Slaughter and May, and Shandwick — have also resigned. Brian Myerson, the South African active-value campaigner who succeeded last month in forcing the removal of Denis Cassidy, the former Liberty chairman, has taken a non-

By JON ASHWORTH

executive seat on the board, along with Odile Griffith, financial adviser to the Stewart-Liberty family.

The move marks a surprise comeback for Mr Bowman, 45, who moved to Australia in 1995 to become finance director to Coles Myer, a Melbourne retailer. He was dismissed three months into the job, after questioning a controversial deal, and sued Coles Myer for alleged wrongful dismissal. Under a settlement agreed in 1996, Coles Myer agreed to pay \$1.43 million (£572,000) to Mr Bowman, plus \$325,000 towards his legal costs.

Mr Bowman has recently been doing business in America and arrived in the UK on Monday. The Myerson camp is understood to have approached Mr Bowman about two months ago. His

appointment has the backing of the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund, a key Myerson supporter.

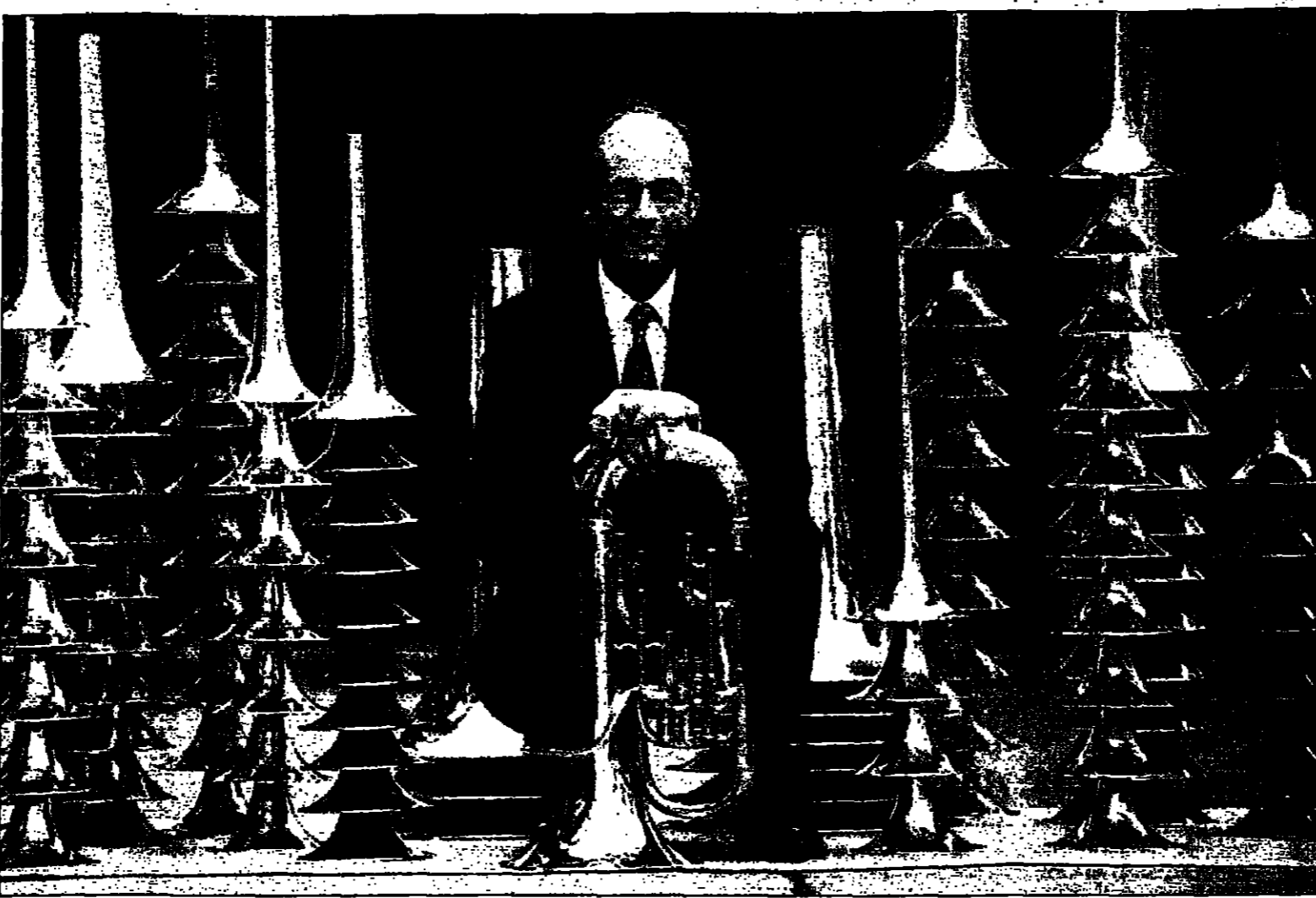
Mr Bowman said: "Liberty has the potential to be a very good brand, but clearly the events of the last few weeks have cast something of a cloud over it." Priorities include hiring a new chief executive and finance director to replace Mr Thomson and Mr Garety, along with two new non-executive directors.

One of the first priorities for Mr Bowman is to deal with the proposed £43 million refurbishment of the flagship Regent Street store, criticised by Mr Myerson and the Stewart-Liberty family as too expensive.

Commentary, page 25

### Sale fears hit share price of Boosey & Hawkes

SHARES in Boosey & Hawkes, the music publisher and instrument maker, suffered a further sharp fall yesterday on reports that two leading suitors had dropped out of the running to buy the company.



Richard Holland, chief executive, saw Boosey & Hawkes shares fall 62.5p to 725p on reports that two possible bidders had dropped out

EMI and Sony were said to be the prime contenders to buy Boosey & Hawkes, led by Richard Holland, chief executive, which was effectively put on the market in April 1997. Carl Fischer, a New York music publisher, is seeking to sell its 45.3 per cent stake in the company.

## Commercial radio dismayed by MMC report on merger

SENIOR commercial radio executives have expressed dismay at a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report that would have probably scuppered the merger of Capital Radio and Virgin Radio if the deal had not already been called off.

views of Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, would have on further consolidation in the industry. Most believe that further mergers are needed to create a stronger industry able to invest in digital technology.

Virgin-Capital merger should be allowed to go ahead only if it was prepared to divest its AM service, Capital Gold, or if Capital was prohibited from acquiring Virgin FM, its London station.

what action, if any, should be taken. Based on 1996 data the MMC said the Capital-Virgin merger would have resulted in Capital's share of the London radio advertising market increasing from 60.9 per cent to 68.3 per cent and Capital's share of the UK market increasing from 36.8 per cent to 46 per cent.

### HSBC Investment plans to lend \$1bn

HSBC Investment Bank, the merchant banking arm of the group that owns Midland Bank, is planning to lend up to \$1 billion (£610 million) in asset-backed deals in the next few weeks.

### Sky News in bid to supply Channel 4

MENTORN Barracough Carey, the independent television production company, has joined with Sky News, the 24-hour television news service, to make a joint bid for the contract to provide Channel 4 News (Raymond Snoddy writes).

### Founder sobs at Peregrine's fall

FRANCIS LEUNG, one of the two founders of Peregrine Investments, burst into tears yesterday as Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidators of Hong Kong's largest investment bank.

### Shortage of IT skills hits small companies

SKILLS shortages are affecting the ability of small businesses to compete, with an "acute" lack of expertise in information technology and computing.

### Halifax says house prices near 1989 peak

HOUSE prices are almost back to the peak of the spring and early summer of 1989, the Halifax reports today. In its official 1997 fourth-quarter house bulletin the Halifax said prices rose 1.1 per cent during the last three months of 1997, similar to the rise in the previous quarter.

### BellSouth in court move

THE "Baby Bell" local phone companies in the US yesterday stepped up their fight to win entry to the long-distance carrier market. BellSouth, which serves the Southern states, asked a federal court in Washington to strike down an unconstitutional provision in the 1996 Telecoms Act restricting the Baby Bells to local markets.

### Business Post return

A NON-EXECUTIVE director of Business Post yesterday received £3 million when he sold part of his 14 per cent stake in the parcels and express delivery company.

### Diageo donation pledge

DIAGEO, the food and drink company created from the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, has pledged to give 1 per cent of its profits to community investment. The combined amount, which is broadly in line with the two companies' previous community investment programmes, is expected to reach around £22 million this year.

### Railtrack stands firm

RAILTRACK yesterday dismissed as unwelcome City-led demands that it retains a peak-time rail link into Moorgate station under its £566 million Thameslink 2000 project.

### Denmans charges ahead

SHARES in Denmans Electrical rose 17p to 122 1/2p after the electrical goods distributor reported a 41 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £3.4 million in the year to September 30.

### Motorola advances 10%

MOTOROLA said fourth-quarter profits before charges rose 10 per cent, less than analysts had expected, amid slowing orders for its mobile phone products and services in Asia.

### Pub lease decision

BRITAIN'S tied pubs system was given a further boost when the European Commission announced it had granted provisional approval to the pub leases operated by Scottish & Newcastle.

## Hopes high on commercial property

COMMERCIAL property prices will remain buoyant this year, according to Deborah Tewson & Chin-chock, the estate agent and surveyor that yesterday reported profits up 70.3 per cent.

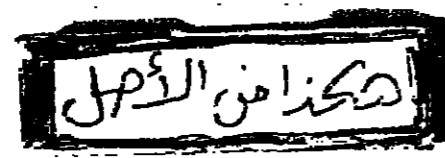
stage of the property cycle, compared with previous ones, that we are not facing an imminent over-supply by incantious development. As a result, a balance is currently being maintained which should ensure acceptable levels of growth in rental value.



Mark Struckett, left, with Richard Lay, chairman

Table with exchange rates for various currencies including Bank Buys, Bank Sells, and other financial data.

Advertisement for Hire Intelligence, featuring the headline 'DAILY TO ANNUAL COMPUTER RENTAL NEEDS? CONSULT A HIRE INTELLIGENCE!' and an illustration of a person sitting at a computer workstation.





# Hampel opportunity for GEC

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor



Those who pontificate on matters of corporate governance put succession planning high on their must-do list for directors. Sir Ronald Hampel, successor to Cadbury and Greenbury as premier pontificate, clearly felt obliged to demonstrate best practice in making plans for who might step into his shoes. Although he will not retire from the chairmanship of ICI until April next year, we now know that, in fine Millbank tradition, he will be replaced by his chief executive. The surprise in the equation is who will succeed Charles Miller Smith. Brewing and chemicals may be more closely related than the bearded beer faddists of Camra would advocate but the choice of Brendan O'Neill was not a superficially obvious one.

Would it be too much to hope that ICI's advance planning might prompt GEC to illuminate investors on who might soon be in charge there? Since both Lord Simpson and Sir Roger Horn are members of the ICI board, they might have been inspired by Sir Ronald's example. With Lord Prior having indicated his intention of stepping down from the chair in March — March 1998, that is, more than a year earlier than Sir Ronald — the potential gap is beginning to cause some concern. The widely accepted rumour that Sir Roger Horn will eventually move from Smiths Industries to GEC has passed determinedly un-

by GEC but there is the little difficulty of Sir Roger's proclaimed intention of working out his contract with Smiths. The suggestion that Lord Simpson might gather the reins and straddle both roles until Sir Roger is ready is hardly Hampel-esque and would understandably upset some investors.

If Sir Ronald's corporate governance messages are not influencing all his own board members, it seems unlikely that his recommendations on the subject, due to be unveiled by the end of this month, will be taken up enthusiastically throughout the business world.

But, on the strength of what has been achieved at ICI, Sir Ronald should not be ignored. The appointment of Charles Miller Smith as chief executive has been more than vindicated, and the choice of Brendan O'Neill augurs equally well.

Miller Smith, a low key ice cream baron from Unilever, has proved to be a forceful incarnation of that fashionable breed, the agent for change. After a period of quiet contemplation, in some quarters mistaken for weak inactivity, he has made huge strides in transforming ICI from a lumbering mass of low grade general

chemicals operations to a more streamlined, higher margin, speciality chemicals business. With neat irony, this has been achieved with the help of his old firm and the chap who beat him to the top job there, encouraging him to consider a move.

Miller Smith has another year in which to refine his ICI design before moving to the elder statesman role. By then at least, we should know who his equivalent will be at GEC.

### 'No' is the true and fair view

A pointless convention of secrecy surrounds evidence to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in the UK and, by transference, to merger vetting in the EU. So the Department of Trade and Industry will not formally disclose the opinions it has now delivered to Brussels on whether Price

Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand should be allowed to get together, let alone its upcoming advice on KPMG and Ernst & Young's instant us-too response. It would be astonishing, however, if the DTI were anything but hostile. The question is how strongly it has put the case on behalf of business, the public and the Bank of England, against cutting competition in growing markets that would benefit from having more competitors.

The danger is that each competition authority will rely on other folk to be firm about this. Britain ought to take the lead.

Accountancy firms have a higher profile in the UK than most countries. That is partly because all but one of the big six have UK origins. Waves of corporate disaster have also made us acutely aware of the need for independence and choice to minimise conflicts of interest and to make standards high. These great professional firms

should be encouraged to grow. We want them to match the needs of global firms and to reach out into the new Wild East of capitalism, where their skills are badly needed. But only the worst ills of monopoly would be served by allowing any of the remaining big six to grow by merging with each other.

That process would logically lead to the big six becoming only three truly international competitors. Arthur Andersen would surely merge with Deloitte as soon as it split up with Andersen Consulting, its troublesome twin. Mergers in investment banking are creating new global competitors. As the behaviour of the big six shows, there would be no chance of new entrants challenging a future big three.

Business would then have no choice in complex deals. Investors would have to dispense with rules against conflict of interest. The public would have no protection against a cosy intellectual

cartel. And there is every reason to think that fees would rise. No remedies are yet apparent. Regulation is no substitute for competition. Shedding clients is a short-term palliative and hiving off the audit function from the rest would destroy the logic of the mergers. Brussels, Washington and Tokyo should all, politely, say no.

### Bowman in the line of fire

The boardroom antics at Liberty seem more in tune with the store's famous Tudor facade than today's City. Out go the chairman, most of his boardroom colleagues and a full slate of corporate advisers. In comes a chap whose experience of retailing in Australia was brought to a premature close after a difference of opinion with his employers.

Philip Bowman, who appeared to have right on his side in his stance over Coles Myers, has now chosen to walk into the midst of another very messy situation in which the moral highground has been subject to rapid erosion. The ubiquitous Brian

Myerson may have given his seal of approval to Bowman and he and his supporters do account for more than half Liberty shares, although not very much more. Following yesterday's wholesale departures, the sole occupants of the boardroom are Myerson, his recently recruited colleague, Odile Griffiths, and Mr Bowman. Such swift and partisan restructuring is a trifle unnerving.

The feeling of disquiet is enhanced by the conviction that the alliance between Myerson and the Stewart-Liberty family looks brittle in the extreme. The title of his investment operation, the UK Active Value fund, makes clear where his ambitions lie and so far, his investment in Liberty has pitifully failed to deliver. But the Stewart-Libertys have, in the past, espoused very different ideas. Bowman could be in for another bruising.

### Battle embattled

Few will be astonished if electricity competition is put off for six months. Recent exercises to cut expectations imply that customers should not care. But it would be another acute embarrassment for John Battle, the Energy Minister. Before assuming personal charge of the project and its complex computer systems, poor Mr Battle should have noticed how hard everyone in the industry tried to foist responsibility on someone else.

## Competition in electricity likely to be delayed

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION in household electricity is certain to be postponed with a key report poised to recommend a delay of several months. The move will prove a substantial embarrassment for John Battle, the Energy Minister, who last year surprised the industry by taking personal responsibility for the programme to enable 25 million homes to shop around for their power. The scheme had been set to start in April.

PA Consulting, adviser to Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, met industry representatives this week as two-timescales for opening the market emerged — July and September/October. The consultants are scheduled to report to the regulator by Friday, while their findings are expected to be passed straight on to the Department of Trade and Industry. It is unlikely that the regulator will announce the outcome. Profes-

or Littlechild will leave that to the minister, when he is forced to reveal a delay. Mr Battle is set to meet industry chiefs next Thursday, when it is expected that he will set the final date. The DTI is thought to have been keen to start competition while Britain has presidency of the European Union. It would have been valuable as a signal to other countries as the liberalisation of Europe's energy market is prepared. But the PA report is expected to argue that the final date should be one that is realistically achievable rather than a wishful goal. For that reason, the autumn option could prove bleak. The delay will increase British Gas, which has spent millions on advertising its plans to sell electricity. The company has used peak-time television advertising along with a massive poster campaign in anticipation of an April start to competition. British Gas has pledged to

cut 15 per cent from present electricity bills, although all electricity companies will soon be obliged to reduce prices by 9 per cent over the next two years. The company is the only non-electricity company to make a push for the domestic market, but many other large organisations are planning to sell power in alliances with electricity companies. The TUC and the AA are among the biggest of the new energy providers, both of whom have linked with ScottishPower. The postponement to competition, which was scheduled to start gradually in a series of postcode regions, has been triggered by difficulties in establishing the complicated computer networks. Companies, which will all lose their regional franchises, have been blamed for dragging their heels while they argue that the programme has been poorly managed and co-ordinated.

## Microsoft antitrust problems in Japan

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

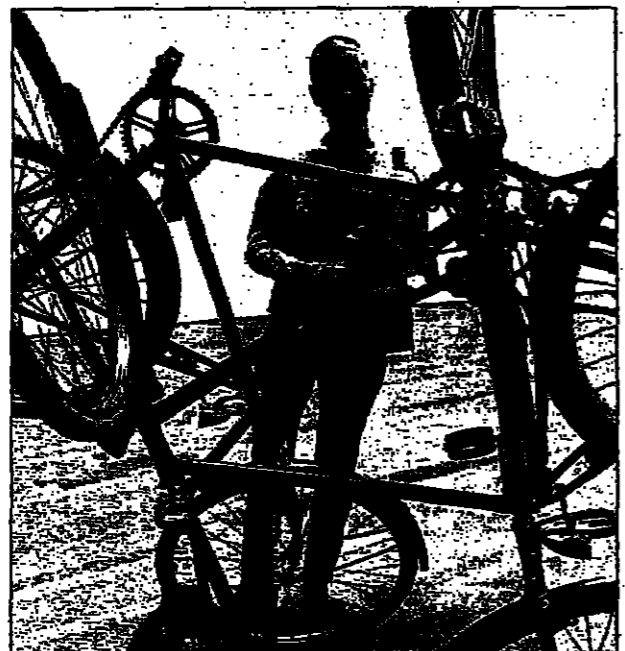
MICROSOFT'S antitrust problems have spread to Japan where offices of its subsidiary in Tokyo were raided by Fair Trade Commission officials. The FTC is investigating violations similar to charges brought by the US Justice Department over the bundling of different Microsoft products to gain illegal dominance in the Internet market. Microsoft denied the

charges, saying: "We haven't broken any laws in Japan, but we will co-operate fully with the FTC investigation." The FTC declined to comment and Microsoft yesterday tried to appease the commission. A spokesman said: "We have great respect for the important role of the Japanese Fair Trade Commission and we are confident that its review will show that Microsoft is in full compliance with

Japanese competition rules." This language is in marked contrast to Microsoft's war of words with the Justice Department that yesterday continued in a federal court in Washington. Microsoft has called department officials computer illiterate. The Justice Department is trying to force Microsoft to unbundle its Internet Explorer software product from its Windows operating system.

The department and Microsoft competitors are alleging that the software group is trying to push rival Internet products out of the market by giving its product away to Windows users. The charges in Japan are more wide-ranging. The FTC also includes the bundling of word processing and spreadsheet software that is sold to Japanese manufacturers. In its defence, the US group

referred to Just System, which attained its dominant position by selling bundled products to businesses. Microsoft said: "By matching the offering of Japan's largest business software company, we have injected substantial additional competition into the Japanese software market. We have expanded the choices of the Japanese consumers, which is a goal that Japanese competition law seeks to encourage."



Sun is aiding the Institute of Contemporary Art

## Business increases arts sponsorship

By JASON NISSE

SPONSORSHIP of the arts by British businesses leapt 20 per cent last year — with information technology and credit card companies leading the way.

Figures from the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA), published yesterday, show that £95.6 million was spent on arts sponsorship by business in the year to April 1997, up from £79.8 million the previous year. This is the first significant rise for four years. More than half the money went to projects in London.

Colin Tweedy, director-general of ABSA, said the rise showed that companies were taking arts sponsorship seriously as part of marketing expenditure. British Telecom was the top sponsor, spending £1.5 million. Other leading sponsors

include Sun Microsystems, which is giving £500,000 to the Institute of Contemporary Art, Allied Domecq, which is sponsoring the Royal Shakespeare Company to the tune of £500,000, and American Express, which backed the London Film Festival.

Other deals struck have been the women's fiction prize backed by Orange, the mobile phone group, Oris the watch-maker's sponsorship of the London jazz festival, and Ernst & Young following its funding of exhibitions featuring Picasso and Cezanne with Bonnard and Monet exhibitions.

Selfridge's, the department store, sponsored the Serpentine Gallery to raise its image among potential central London shoppers and is now backing the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester ahead of opening a store there.

## CWC begins \$2bn change to capital structure

By RAYMOND SNODDY  
MEDIA EDITOR

CABLE & Wireless Communications, the largest UK cable communications group, has embarked on a \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) capital restructuring designed to cut its debt costs.

The company yesterday filed its intention with the Securities and Exchange Commission to raise a US bond worth \$2 billion. The aim is to replace \$1.5 billion in high yield or "junk" bonds raised by two of CWC's constituent companies, Videotron and Bell Cablemedia. Nicholas Mearing-Smith, CWC finance director, said: "This is the first stage of reorganising the capital structure of the group." The new long-term debt will range from eight to 12 years. The lead banks in the bond raising will be Merrill Lynch and HSBC.

The aim is to replace the junk bonds with more cost-effective debt rather than to raise new money. Mr Mearing-Smith estimates that CWC could save £40 million a year as a result of the restructuring. In addition to the present junk bonds CWC has a £2.9 billion two-year bank facility to meet the cost of completing its cable network. The company is also thinking of going to the euro-sterling market to raise between £250 million to £300 million to reduce its bank facility needs.

Road shows to the US to promote the US bond are due to start soon. Mr Mearing-Smith is optimistic about the outcome because of the appetite for such issues in the US and the fact that CWC has investment grade status with a Standard & Poor's A- rating. Apart from Bell Cablemedia and Videotron the other two companies "brought" together to create CWC were Mercury Communications and Nynex Cablecom.

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Jacques Santer is as softly obsessed with the euro as our children are with their Tamagotchis. The President of the European Commission believes as if the single currency project will keep over and die unless he regularly feeds it with unending and uncritical diet of praise.

# Tamagotchi bleeps in Santer's stocking

Hong Kong. No sooner had he spoken than his Tamagotchi let out panicked electronic bleeps as the stock markets in both centres plunged 9 per cent.

sign that investment plans cut in Seoul, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur are already eating into German exports, on which it is so dependent. Germany is not alone in being vulnerable to Asia.



JACQUES SANTER

it clear that, for purposes of monetary union, European interest rates should converge on the low rates prevailing in the "core" countries, not the average rate of all European countries which is higher because of those peripheral countries that still have higher inflation.

starts off as a relatively soft currency and gives monetary union a better fighting chance in its infancy. The main flight to quality has been into the dollar, which has appreciated against the mark. This trend is likely to persist so long as the US Federal Reserve does its usual best to keep the American economy growing and the Bundesbank desists from inappropriate interest rate machismo in an attempt to establish the credibility of the ECB.

encourages the European economies to keep growing. The worst possible thing for season ticket holders of the euro fan club is for the run-up to and launch of the single currency to coincide with rising unemployment, already the most politically explosive issue in Germany and France.

# Guinness's 'gentle giant' steps up for ICI challenge

Corporate governance purists will have a field day. Sir Ronald Hooper, the head of the committee that sets the standards for good management practice, is handing over his day job as chairman of ICI to his number two, Charles Miller Smith.

Paul Durman and Dominic Walsh analyse the boardroom formula at the huge chemicals group



Charles Miller Smith, the next chairman of ICI, is remarkably mild-mannered

In other companies, the prospect of Mr Miller Smith's elevation from chief executive to chairman might be condemned as an incestuous or parochial appointment. Management theorists are suspicious of such apparently cosy moves, fearing that they threaten the balance of powers that is demanded in the boardrooms of big companies today.

ICI is likely to escape such censure. For a start, it is impossible to imagine Mr Miller Smith as a corporate dictator. Like Clark Kent in a cardigan, he is remarkably mild-mannered for someone in one of the toughest jobs in British industry. He has claimed that only twice during the course of his career has he been moved to raise his voice - both times while in discussions with a superior.

Quest International from Unilever means ICI now makes the chemicals that go into foods, fragrances and toiletries. As such, it is now "closer to the consumer" where the profit margins and the growth prospects are better.

Dr O'Neill said he was looking to moving from one great company to another, adding: "In the way that Guinness is Ireland's greatest company that has gone on to be an international business, ICI is almost the same here in Britain."

Bank before he arrived at Guinness in 1987. As a management accountant, he worked extensively in the financial area before being made managing director of the international business of United Distillers, the Guinness spirits business.

ICI is not what it was - and not just because of the changes that Mr Miller Smith has wrought. Still perhaps Britain's most famous company, it has underperformed its peers in the FTSE 100 by about 50 per cent over the past 20 years.

# Hong Kong delays airport opening as tourist numbers fall

Hong Kong has delayed the opening of its new HK\$50 billion (£4 billion) airport at Chep Lap Kok, amid signs of an increasingly aggressive price war among carriers serving South-East Asia.

market, was down 9 per cent, while UK visitor arrivals were down 36 per cent. Carriers in South-East Asia are suffering a double hit from declining load factors and falling local currencies.

300 aircraft on order, mostly large wide-bodies, with around half due to be delivered over the next two years. Most Asian carriers are expected to try to defer orders and options, seeking instead to raise funds through the sale and leaseback of aircraft.



Delayed: Hong Kong's new airport at Chep Lap Kok

There is surprise in aviation circles that the runways at Chep Lap Kok will be shorter than standard at 12,467 ft (3,500m). Changi in Singapore runs to 13,123 ft (4,000m), with a 1,000 ft (300m) over-run at either end.

JON ASHWORTH

# Pocket money

IT SEEMS the market for City whiz-kids is as frothy as ever. Word reaches me of a particularly outrageous incentive package to a recently qualified accountant, age 24, lured from a Big Six firm to a merchant bank recently taken over by Americans.

Not us, says DLJ Phoenix, which most easily fits the bill. "We've hired four or five recently qualified accountants, but none on that sort of package," said David Reid Scott, head of corporate finance. So who on earth can it be, then?



that Virgos, or whoever, are the best drivers because they make the fewest claims, while Aquarians should never be allowed behind the wheel.

Asian flaw IT PROBABLY seemed like a good idea once to set up an emerging markets trading desk specialising in Asian and east-European currencies, which is why Société Générale is now able to announce the appointment of Tim Chapman and Jeremy Hodges, along with a third trader still being sought.

Whirly bird FROM an invitation to one of those ghostly management conferences, this one featuring someone called Kevin Thomson, specialist in waving his arms around a lot, to judge from the brochure: "Kevin provides a brilliant inspirational view of the key issues we face."

# Star-crossed

EVERY once in a while one of the big insurance companies has the bright idea of breaking down motor accident claims by star sign and "proving"

that Virgos, or whoever, are the best drivers because they make the fewest claims, while Aquarians should never be allowed behind the wheel.

Likewise, now seems a curious time for the Commercial Union to launch a China Index Fund, with or without Sir Edward Heath and his fondness for the current regime in Beijing. Still, nothing like investing for the long term.

"I know Guinness is good for you but we pay better"

THE TIMES PRESENTS

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**MARTIN WALLER**

### GTE sets sights on European expansion

By Raymond Snoddy  
Media Editor

GTE, the largest local telephone company in the US, is targeting Europe as one of its areas for expansion and hopes to make its first move during this year.

The company has huge cash resources and recently bid \$28 billion (£17.5 billion) in cash for MCI, only to be outbid by WorldCom — a deal still subject to regulatory and shareholder approval.

Mike Masin, vice-chairman and president international of GTE, said that "the MCI opportunity was the international opportunity". Although GTE has not entirely given up yet on MCI, the telephone company plans to continue its international expansion regardless.

"We are looking at Europe with a really keen commercial interest," Mr Masin said. GTE believes that it has to become a global player offering the widest range of communications services.

The company has had manufacturing facilities and produces directories in Europe, but the aim now is to become a direct player in the market.

GTE is likely to start by concentrating on specialist services before gradually deepening its involvement in Europe. One possibility is that the company, based in Stamford, Connecticut, might buy an Internet server company as its first beachhead. GTE has business in 30 US states and is particularly strong in the suburbs of cities such as Los Angeles and Dallas.

Mr Masin said: "The other area which is going to be crucial to us is Europe. This is a critical time for Europe with the opening up of the telecom market."

GTE's strategy is to develop regional operations around the world before gradually trying to become a global player.



Head for business: Jeremy Cooke, sales and marketing director, left, and Frank Bretherton, managing director, saw SDX Business Systems report pre-tax profits of £4.4 million (£3.2 million) for the 12 months to October 31. The supplier of business telephone systems, which floated on the stock market in December 1996, had earnings of 8.2p a share, up from 6.6p. A final dividend of 1.6p a share makes a total of 2.4p (all).

## Tokyo admits economic crisis is now deeper than first feared

FROM ROBERT WEYMANT  
IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE Government report yesterday said that the nation's economy was worsening, and offered no prospect for an early improvement.

In the gloomiest official assessment of the current crisis, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said that the poor economic outlook was deterring consumer spending and capital outlays by companies, and banks were increasingly reluctant to lend.

"The economy is facing greater risks than it did before. The economic standstill may be prolonged," the EPA said in its monthly report.

The Government, slow to acknowledge the severity of the situation, formally admitted last month that the economy was stalling. However, yesterday's report said conditions were more severe than perceived in December. The report

noted a decline in retail sales and spending on overseas travel, and a 3.8 drop in December vehicle sales. Companies in leading industries plan to reduce capital expenditure for the year ending in March.

Doubts about the soundness of Japanese banks, which have grown since a series of bank and brokerage failures late last year, have undermined confidence and the chances of the economy pulling out of the doldrums. Public distrust was deep-

ened by the Finance Ministry's announcement on Monday that the nation's banks have accumulated roughly 77 trillion yen (about £35 billion) in potentially risky loans.

The EPA report placed emphasis on a number of recent policy measures designed to help to support the economy and stabilise the worrying financial system. These include injection of ¥30 trillion in public money to protect depositors and increase

banks' capital through the purchase of preference shares in banks.

In an effort to overcome the prevailing credit crunch, the Government has also taken steps to make more loans available to companies through state-affiliated financial institutions.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, is planning his hopes on a ¥2 trillion tax cut to boost the economy, but opposition parties are pressing for a more drastic stimulus. The scale of the proposed cuts has disappointed the markets, with analysts predicting that they will have little impact.

Yesterday two parties aligned with Mr Hashimoto's ruling Liberal Democratic Party criticised government agencies for failing to warn the public of the gravity of the situation. The Social Democratic Party objected that the Government's use of the expression "standstill" failed to reflect the reality of the crisis.

## Occupancy of Jurys Hotels above 80%

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES in Jurys Hotel Group gained 27p to 400p yesterday as the Dublin company unveiled a 36 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to Ir£10.76 million (£9 million).

Barry Sheehan, finance di-

rector, said that buoyant trading in its key Irish and UK markets enabled the group to lift the average room rate across its hotels by about 8 per cent while keeping occupancy above 80 per cent. He said current trading had followed a similar pattern.

Turnover in the half year to

October 31 increased 26 per cent to Ir£57.1 million, while earnings per share were 31 per cent better at Ir19p. The interim dividend, payable on February 12, rises 20 per cent to Ir3.12p.

Mr Sheehan said that the key issue facing the group in 1998 would be the integration

of a number of new hotels. The Jurys London Inn opens in Islington in May and in the summer it will open a 100-room Jurys Inn in Edinburgh. It also recently announced plans to invest £15 million developing a 250-room hotel in Manchester, subject to planning permission.

## EasyJet relaunches bid for Air Holland

EASYJET, the budget airline, has relaunches its bid for Air Holland, the charter operator, to establish a hub in Amsterdam. The company said it would use the Dutch business to set up a new base at Schiphol airport and directly take on rivals KLM. Stefan Hajj-loannou, EasyJet's chairman, held talks with Air Holland directors on Monday and an offer was made. A spokesman, James Rothnie, said it was too early to comment on the details of the bid. EasyJet first tried to take over the Dutch business in December, but its bid was rejected as too low.

Mr Rothnie said the airline had been considering establishing a new branch in Amsterdam since Luton excluded EasyJet from the list of companies bidding to run the airport. The airport also said that it could not give the group assurances that it would be able to expand capacity under the new operator. EasyJet plans to expand services in the UK and continental Europe and has ordered 12 Boeing 737s that will treble the size of its fleet. EasyJet, founded more than two years ago, has already set up a second UK hub in Liverpool.

## Bespak in good health

SHARES in Bespak, the medical equipment manufacturer, jumped 40p to 750p after the group reported first-half profits up 30 per cent to £6.5 million. The group said all operations showed improvement and was optimistic about growth in the drug delivery industry, which made up 65 per cent of sales and the lion's share of profits in the first half. A reduced cost base and greater operational efficiency raised profits. Group turnover was up 7 per cent to £42.3 million and the dividend was raised from 4.62p to 5.1p. Earnings rose to 18.8p a share from 13.3p.

## Widney peace restored

DISSIDENT investors in Widney have dropped their call for an extraordinary meeting to impose board changes after the engineering company agreed to launch a disposal programme to reduce gearing, repay outstanding preference shares and distribute surplus cash to ordinary shareholders. Strand Associates and SEP Industrial, which together hold 11.5 per cent of the company, had sought the departure of David Cassidy, Widney's chief executive, Paul Lines, managing director, and Phillip Williams, a non-executive director.

## Delta Australian deal

DELTA, the UK cables and industrial materials company, is acquiring Broken Hill Proprietary's Australian Electrolytic manganese dioxide business for about A\$57 million (£22.8 million). The transaction will take place via Delta Electrical Industries (DEI), Delta's South African associate. The UK company also announced plans to increase its stake in DEI to 50.1 per cent from 47.5 per cent via a vendor placing at a cost of £38 million. Delta has also agreed to pay £2.7 million to subscribe to a DEI rights issue.

## Micro Focus departure

SHARES of Micro Focus Group fell 40p to £25.50 after the computer services company announced the departure of Anthony Muller as chief financial officer. Mr Muller is expected to take up a senior position with another company within the sector. His departure comes after last year's surprise resignation of Marcelo Euzébio as chief executive one month after making a £900,000 profit on exercising options. Martin Waters, the company's current chief executive, said it would meet revenue and profit plans for the current year.

# merry

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type and name. Columns include fund name, unit price, and other financial metrics.

Advertisement for Planet Storage Works, featuring the text 'How well will your Data Storage strategy support your growth plans?' and 'Internet and Data Storage Solutions for Business.'

Handwritten text at the bottom left: 'مکان الکترونیک'

Vertical text on the right edge: 'COLL'

Vertical text on the right edge: 'The NOT'

Ian Rickson takes the helm at our most challenging theatre soon. Benedict Nightingale meets him

# Court in the delicate bubble act

A couple of months ago Ian Rickson broke his right wrist playing football for Royal Court United. That meant he began work on Kevin Elyot's new *The Day I Stood Still*, which opens at the Cottesloe next week, with his dominant arm and hand incapacitated by a crust of plaster. For a director who admits to taking notes galore both before and during rehearsals, it was not the most auspicious preparation for a debut at the National.

"It was frightening, and I felt helpless," he says, "but of course the right hand represents the rational part of one's brain. I couldn't plan, I couldn't even write, so I had to direct Kevin's play in a more instinctive, open, fluid way, which I enjoyed. After all, directing is more about releasing and liberating and exploring than it is about controlling. More about unblocking actors than blocking moves."

Clearly Rickson is a man who looks at a pint glass containing half a pint of beer and feels that it is half-full, not half-empty. He will need

Some things are so enormous you can't worry about them?

gallons of optimism and resilience in the months ahead, for he has landed one of the most demanding jobs in British theatre. Soon after finishing with *The Day I Stood Still*, he will prepare Conor McPherson's fine *Weir* for its transfer from the Theatre Upstairs (as the Ambassadors is called these days) to the Theatre Downstairs (meaning the simpler Duke of York's). And then, in April, he takes over from Stephen Daldry at the head of the Royal Court, currently the tenant of both playhouses.

Rickson would be the first to admit that he does not have Daldry's charismatic fizz, but beneath his earnest, friendly manner there is assurance and determination. He will need both if he is to sustain and complete what his predecessor started. The Court is now the largest commissioning theatre in the world, and stages at least 15 new plays a year. With Dominic Drumgoole's Bush, it has been the creative pad from which more than a dozen fresh writing careers have been launched, generating a buzz in the British theatre unmatched since the 1950s. Moreover, its famous old house in Sloane Square is being rebuilt with the help of lottery funding — and there is every likelihood of trouble ahead.

Can the Court raise the \$4 million of private money the building still needs? Can it afford to stay in the West End, as seems likely, the reopening of the theatre is delayed



Assessing the view through the porthole? Ian Rickson would far rather be "the captain of a pirate ship that manoeuvres here and there than of some big supertanker"

until deep into 1999? Can it expect enough help from the Arts Council to keep up an exciting flow of plays and playwrights? "Some things are so enormous you can't worry about them," says Rickson. "Fear is so paralysing, I just have to believe we'll do good work, that good work has its own potency, and that it'll bring us the money. But I'm well aware that 'bubble' is the right metaphor for us. We're as buoyant as a bubble, but also as precarious."

"I'd far rather be the captain of a pirate ship that manoeuvres here and there than of some big supertanker," he says. "It is no use being defensive. If you programme conservatively to get audiences in, you always fail. You have to be bold."

His own productions at the theatre reflect that. He has directed several bracing examples of our new Theatre of Urban Ennui, notably work by Joe Penhall and Judy Upton. His tastes, as might be expected, are eclectic. He has directed *Weir*, a touching ghost story about bereavement and loss, yet also Jez Butterworth's brilliant portrait of 1950s gangland, *Moja*. That arrived in the theatre's slush pile in March 1995, impressed Rickson enough for him instantly to assemble actors for a reading, and was on the main stage by July; the sort of rapid response you associate more with a Gull war than with first plays by unknown writers.

Rickson is a 34-year-old Londoner, the son of an agency reporter. He got his love of football from being taken to games his father was covering, and his passion for theatre from family trips to Greenwich Theatre. Max Wall as the tramp in Pinter's *Caretaker* — "really powerful, with this extraordinarily compelling dark world" — was a key revelation. Rickson did a lot of acting at Essex University, where Edward Bond was among his instructors, but opted for the equally precarious career of director. At the age of 29 he was the father of a growing son and, despite several modest successes, was finding it so hard to make ends meet that he had half-decided to give up the theatre for teaching. But then came Daldry's life-saving offer of a job at the Court.

The first major event of the Rickson regime will be *Cleansed* by Sarah Kane, whose recent *Blasted* left many more squeamish colleagues

reaching for the smelling salts. New plays by other young or youngish Court dramatists, notably Conor McPherson, Jim Cartwright, Nick Grosso, Ed Thomas, Rebecca Pritchard and Anthony Nielson, are also in the offing; and some of them, like *Cleansed*, will be seen at the Duke of York's. One of Rickson's prime aims is to give dramatists who have made their name in the Theatre Upstairs the chance to write for the main stage, liberating the smaller space for new talent.

With writers' workshops in Uganda, Palestine and Germany planned, he also means to expand international activities that have already brought the Court some striking foreign work. And he admits to envying the Almeida's ability to attract top players. "It's harder with new work than with revivals, because modern dramatists seldom write thumping great leads, and it's difficult to get actors to commit to plays that haven't yet

been written. But I'd like the Court to have that sort of feeling."

Though he describes himself as a socialist, Rickson is clearly a man of broader, less rigid tastes than some Court directors of the past. Elyot's *The Day I Stood Still*, for instance, involves a middle-aged man who fell in love when he was 17 and has remained emotionally stuck ever since. Rickson thinks that playwrights these days, from Tom Stoppard to the angry young dissenters the Court still attracts, are displaying more personal feeling than in the past; and that's the way he himself likes it. "I love to do work that touches audiences. If there had to be a choice, I'd far rather a play functioned in an emotional and spiritual dimension than an intellectual one; but the two things need not be in opposition. I believe in affecting people in every way. I want them to leave the theatre thoroughly stimulated."

## They shall not grow old

This involves plucky, worthy people who face fearful perils and, partly because they are refused support by those with the power to help them, end up destroyed. But, no, the subject is not the determination of the London Arts Board to withdraw funding from the King's Head and so put it out of business. Whether or not R.C. Sherriff's play is also a metaphor for the woes of our senior pub theatre, it remains as moving a picture of life and death in the trenches as you will find on any English-speaking stage.

That is not to forget *The Silver Tassie*, a bolder, grander piece, at least when it ventures on to the battlefield. But O'Casey did not fight in the Great War, and Sherriff did, and it shows. The author of *Journey's End* had personally observed the rats, the bad food, the very lights, the dreadful dullness, the terrifying spasms of violence, and the response of men to stress. They do not just hit the bottle, like Samuel West's Stanhope, or fake symptoms of neuralgia, like his feeblest junior officer, Sion Rees's Hibbert. Sherriff knew that, when men are about to do something especially dangerous, they have a weird urge to yawn.

Some members of the audience tutted at "simply topping", "jolly bucked", and the dated lingo that came bubbling out of the seedy, front-line dugout James King has designed. That was a pity, because it is the clipped inarticulacy of the assembled subalterns that gives the piece authority. These characters see themselves not at all as heroic, but as blokes obliged to do a terrifying, bewildering job because common decency demands it. Actually, that's what does make them heroic and the play itself touching. Again, the play is not anti-war propaganda. True, it



voices a certain cynicism about the top brass, who may and may not have scheduled a near-suicidal raid for the late afternoon rather than the safer evening so that their dinner is not disturbed. True, a new officer is allowed to say that "it all seems rather silly, doesn't it?", and a senior one to agree, when he hears how hostilities resumed with their usual fury after a German officer helped to rescue a wounded Briton. But these are hints only. Sherriff's task is to show unglamorous people enduring the unendurable, and allow us to draw our own conclusions. This is a play that merits regular revivals, and gets a decent one from David Evans Rees. Though the cast is not uniformly strong, there are fine performances. Samuel West, pale and pinched, clearly understands the internal strains of a 21-year-old captain who manages to remain cool yet is well aware that his nerves are precariously held together by will-power and scotch. Miles Richardson's Osborne, wise old owl, and Kris Marshall's callow, gangling Raleigh ensure that his subordinate has authenticity, too. At the end a 96-year-old Chelsea Pensioner was asked to stand and take a bow. It was a nice gesture, and it did emphasise why the play remains its eloquence. Think of the waste of a generation that did not live long enough to become our forefathers. Think of the good fortune of those of us who never had to cope with the mud, bullets and blood. With *Journey's End* those are not Remembrance Day truisms but simple truths.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



War wounds: Samuel West and Miles Richardson take the strain in R.C. Sherriff's moving *Journey's End*

## Carry on up the dangerous liaisons

WHEN boys and girls come out to play, party games are never far away. An argument for single-sex schooling may be, but what about the grown-ups? Well, one way or another, Vanburgh certainly seems to have done his research, for his insights into love and lust power-tripping are as pertinent now as they must have been when this high-life satire received its first outing back at the far-end of the 17th century. Moreover, he proves once and for all that desire speaks louder than words.

Basically, the complex whirling of a plot evolves around assorted high rollers chasing each other round the mulberry bush to satiate inner

urges as well as ease the boredom of being comfy, if not happy with one's lot. In short, the fallen philanthropist Loveless to whom the title refers isn't so much looking for Miss Right as Miss Right Now. A firm believer in keeping it in the family, he finds a kindred spirit in the smouldering form of merry widow Berinthia, kissing cousin of Loveless's good wife Amanda. Meanwhile, a wily matchmaker is busy setting handsome Tom Fashion up for life in a tryst where beauty is not so much in the eye of the beholder as in his or her purse. A standard period romp you might think, except by reining things in, director

## Few tears for a clown

JAPANESE Butoh performance of the 1960s was a violent rebellion against the rigid physical vocabulary of classical theatre. Shocking, vulgar and absurd, it displayed the body unglorified and made a theatre of the grotesque.

This rebel spirit attracted attention among Soviet artists in the early days of perestroika. And there is now a distinct sub-genre of Butoh across a strip from Prague to St Petersburg of which the Dervero company were early exponents.

The group's founder member, Anton Adassinsky, works also with the great clown Slava Polunin, and his influence is clearly visible in *Red Zone*, a show which combines clown theatre with more earnest elements of Butoh-inspired performance. Opening the London International Mime Festival, *Red Zone* starts with an extended burlesque of circus clowning; apparently lethal objects are picked up as if for a juggling skit, thrown up in the air and then left to drop on the ground. Props fall, apparently haphazardly, off the front of

Red Zone  
Purcell Room

the stage and the crescendo is a long sequence of slapstick bottom kicking where the clowns descend into the audience and proffer their rears for an inviting boot. Like the subsequent Butoh sections it is beautifully judged, and the audience is in no doubt that the clowns are absolutely capable of juggling five pickaxes should they choose to.

The show is pitched from this world of bright plasticity into a long stretch of near total darkness through which sexless, naked figures writhe in dull licks of red and green light. Moments of the sublime drop occasionally into this protean world, interspersed with tiny, nasty snatches of narrative, apocalyptic brides, a chain of hierarchical violence and a man who stabs his distended heart as it hangs above the stage.

*Red Zone* is slick, faultlessly produced and performed, but has lost — possibly because of its Purcell Room location — the charged, visceral commu-

nication that both Butoh and clown theatre are capable of. The power of the clown is to persuade the audience to enter into his illusion with him. Even in their motley, Dervero exhibit such ambivalence to, and detachment from, their audience, that it is impossible to make the leap of faith far enough into their contorted tragedy to be affected by it.

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Hilary Finch looks forward to the Barbican's three-day Martinu festival

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It was Welsh National Opera's production in the early 1980s of Martinu's last great opera The Greek Passion...



Martinu's champion, the conductor Jiri Belohlavek

Passion and the Third Piano Concerto, with which he became acquainted through Martinu's own friend...

Meanwhile, a newly relaxed and expansive Belohlavek is relishing every moment of his four fortnightly years spent with the BBCSO...

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LONDON

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

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Rising stars in the arts firmament DOMINIC McHALE

Age 28: Professor: Poacher turned gamekeeper - actor turned playwright

Background: Rochdale College of Art and Design and Rose Bruford Drama College

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Advertisement for 'Bugsy' featuring a large image of James Caan and promotional text.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'ma', 'ock', 'who', and other fragments.



# It may be only rock'n'roll, but who owns it?

There's gold in them thar BBC vaults — and everyone wants it. David Sinclair describes a copyright dilemma

The tremendous interest generated by the news that the BBC has "discovered" a cache of previously unreleased recordings by the Rolling Stones suggests that the Corporation must be sitting on a goldmine. Surely, with recordings of a similar vintage by Pink Floyd, Genesis, The Who, the Jimi Hendrix Experience, Fleetwood Mac and many others just waiting to be dusted off and made commercially available, the BBC has an asset which could make a substantial contribution towards defraying its costs and our licence fees?

There's a difference between owning a property and being able to exploit it

Such future releases are unlikely to match the success of *Live at the BBC* by the Beatles, which has sold more than five million copies since it was released in 1994. But a double-CD of similar material by Led Zeppelin, called *BBC Sessions*, released last November on the BBC Worldwide Music label has already sold half a million copies.

Unfortunately things are not that simple. As John Willan, head of BBC Worldwide Music, points out, to secure the copyright clearance necessary to release this material is a long and fraught process. According to Willan the copyright in the tapes themselves belongs to the BBC. But the copyright in the performances can belong to either the artist, or the artist's management, or the artist's record company or a combination of all three, depending on the precise contractual position at the time the sessions were recorded.

BBC Worldwide Music was launched last year with a brief to exploit the BBC's musical output commercially, and Willan has made it his business to find a way through the copyright maze that has pre-

vented so many vintage sessions from becoming commercially available. "I want to challenge the belief that these acts are unclearable," he says. It took him a year of negotiations to get the Led Zeppelin album cleared for release, and plans are well in hand for the release of a CD which gathers together everything that Hendrix ever recorded for the BBC, both on radio and TV. However, despite all the recent excitement, the Stones tapes may well take a good deal longer to surface.

They're not a record company. As for the group, I think you could make an educated guess that they're just too damn busy right now to worry about what some old BBC tapes sound like.

Copyright is one of those issues that just about everybody seems to feel aggrieved about. We have grown accustomed to hearing artists such as George Michael, Prince and Mick Hucknall of Simply Red complaining that they do not own the copyright to their own recordings, even though this is a situation largely of their own making and one which has not prevented any of them from becoming as rich as Croesus. Even Paul McCartney was thwarted in his attempt to buy the copyright to the Beatles back catalogue when he was outbid by Michael Jackson.

For their part, record companies feel threatened by the impact of rapidly changing technology on their ability to protect their copyrights. "We have a digital environment coming, and the copyright acts of the 1950s and 1980s do not deal with this at all," Warner Music chairman Rob Dickins told *Music Week* recently. But according to Jeff Clark-Meads, international news editor of *Billboard* magazine, the British music industry is wary of encouraging the Government to interfere too much in what is a largely deregulated and highly profitable industry. "Record companies want adequate protection of their interests, but they don't want anyone looking too closely into what they are getting up to," he says.

In the case of the BBC tapes, the question of copyright ownership is further complicated by the role of the various



Tracks recorded at the BBC by the youthful Rolling Stones are worth a fortune to whoever presents the strongest case for their ownership

producers who not only recorded the sessions but in many cases were the only people who took steps to preserve those recordings. Incredible though it might seem in hindsight, it was routine procedure at the BBC to wipe such tapes two months or so after they had been broadcast, and it was only thanks to the initiative of various producers who made and kept their own copies that many of these recordings still exist.

The BBC is now taking the credit for capturing and broadcasting all these performances," says Bernie Andrews, the producer of the popular early-1960s show, *Saturday Club*. "But pop music was barely tolerated by the BBC at the time." Andrews, who produced many radio sessions by the Beatles, the Stones and others, believes that he and fellow producers such as Jeff Griffin, who produced most of the *In Concert* programmes on Radio 1,

have a strong case under European copyright law to receive a share of any commercial marketing of the sessions. "We have had no recognition of our foresight in saving this stuff," says Andrews, a disillusioned man who was earning a salary of £12,500 when he retired on a BBC pension in 1983. "We have taken legal advice and we are challenging the BBC's right to release these recordings without any consideration to ourselves."

Andrews is sceptical of the romantic notion that the BBC has suddenly happened upon these old tapes, lying around in dusty vaults. "The BBC filing system is comprehensive," he says. "They know everything they've got. What they're doing is fishing. They're hoping that people who have things that they've kept as producers or recorded off the air will say, 'We've got these tapes.' And then the BBC will say, 'They're our copyright and you've no business to

have them.' But we're not that stupid. None of us is telling each other what we've got, never mind the BBC or the press." And even when the BBC has got hold of such tapes, there is no guarantee it can profit from them, as Klein is quick to point out: "There's a difference between physically owning a piece of property, which the BBC does, and being able to exploit it, which it can't. And that's the thing that people don't want to deal with."

## Fluent in film and Latin

Thanks, presumably, to the recent, unimproved cinema version of *Mission: Impossible*, Lalo Schifrin seems to be back in fashion. When was the last time so many members of Generation X were drawn to a big band concert?

I am not entirely sure they got what they bargained for, at least in the first half. Sure enough, the film composer-cum-jazz pianist's most celebrated tune exploded into view, flutes and trumpets flashing. The theme from *Pulpit* also made an appearance,

slightly earlier, in a newly expanded arrangement, distinguished with typical verve by the BBC Big Band. But the programme did not truly settle into its rhythm until after the interval, when the celebrated Australian composer James Morrison took part in a re-creation of Schifrin's *Gillespiana* suite, originally written for Dizzy Gillespie almost 40 years ago.

## Seductive tones of a sax fiend

THE Ohio-born saxophonist Don Braden made his recording debut at the age of 24 on Betty Carter's Grammy-winning 1988 album, *Look What I Got*, having already toured with Wynton Marsalis. Ten years on, with seven albums as a leader under his belt, he is not only the musical supervisor on Bill Cosby's television show, but also one of New York's most sought-after jazz musicians, appearing regularly with the trumpeters Tom Harrell and Art Farmer, the drummer Roy Haynes and the Mingus Big Band.

Both Carter and Marsalis are renowned jazz talent scouts, and Bill Cosby is something of an aficionado of the music, so it came as no surprise when Braden began his first set with the classic *Have You Met Miss Jones?* to find that in addition to possessing a warmly elegant, cultured tenor tone, he was also a gutsy improviser capable of extracting every last ounce of excitement from a familiar chord sequence. His next selection, however, the poignant Coltrane ballad *After the Rain*, drew a full-throated sonority tinged with melancholy from him, and was immediately followed by a vigorously funky visit to Hank Mobley's bluesy hard-bop staple, *Soul Station*. So it became clear that the whole contemporary saxophone repertoire was to be grist to his mill.

After such intensity, another ballad was essential, and the title track of Braden's latest album, Jimmy Heath's *The Voice of the Saxophone* — a wistful theme gently propelled by Joseph's charming delicacy — fitted the bill perfectly. There has been, of late, some concern expressed by observers of the music that the fact that there has been nothing wholly new under the jazz sun since Ornette Coleman's late-1950s innovations might lead to artistic stagnation. Braden's performance, by exploiting so much of the existing ground with such irresistible heat, virtuosity and commitment, went a considerable way towards rendering such fears irrelevant.

Chris Parker

His signature was much more distinct on *Gillespiana*, a Kenton-esque fusion of Afro-Cuban rhythms whose contours are rendered even more jagged by the absence of a reeds section. Gillespie's protégé, the high-note specialist Jon Faddis, gave a robust reading of the five-movement work at Carnegie Hall two or three years ago. Morrison's performance was no less forceful, again prompting the question of why this extrovert musician — the most naturally gifted trumpeter I have heard for a long time — is not better known here.

The up-tempo sections had all the vivacity of Gillespie's pioneering composition, *Manteca*. Although Morrison is not normally regarded as a pure bebopper, he produced uncannily accurate echoes of the searing downward runs from the uppermost heights of the register.

The alto saxophone of his fellow soloist, the precocious Nigel Hitchcock, was never more than a step or two behind. The frenetic closing movement, *Toccata*, may have been over-extended, but it produced a spectacular dialogue with the orchestra, culled between a Latin pulse and a solid four-to-the-bar swing beat.

Clive Davis

## CONCERTS: More great Britons showcased; a fine trio in the making; young players bow out

### Tippett echoed by his forebears

It was fitting that Saturday's performance by the Nash Ensemble, the penultimate concert in its *Dreamers of Dreams* series, should have been dedicated to Sir Michael Tippett. John Allison writes. Most of his output came too late to be spotlighted in this survey of British composers from the first half of the 20th century, but for all his originality his work grew out of the musical world being celebrated here; indeed, he realised the dreams that many of his predecessors had been unable to fulfil.

At least one great figure was included in this programme, Vaughan Williams, represented by *On Wenlock Edge*. A song cycle that juxtaposes human suffering with images of idyllic countryside, it made a strong dramatic impact, thanks to colourful performances by four of the Nash strings, the pianist Ian Brown and Anthony Rolfe Johnson, in better voice than of late. This music suits him perfectly and the hushed endings showed masterful control.

Inspired programming brought us a rare account of Ivor Gurney's *Ludlow and Teme*, also a cycle for tenor, piano and string quartet, and settings from Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*. Gurney's talent for writing highly individual songs reveals itself potently here, and if the set lacks genius in comparison to Vaughan Williams, it is still full of powerful contrasts. *Ludlow Fair* is a rollicking number with a darker side, but nothing compares to the



Anthony Rolfe Johnson on form with the Nash

### Three not yet a company

There is no reason why the Florestan Piano Trio should not become a high-quality ensemble. Its three members — Anthony Marwood (violin), Richard Lester (cello) and Susan Tomes (piano) — are all good instrumentalists and experienced chamber musicians. They have been playing together, in this particular formation, for less than three years, however, and it takes longer than that to develop a distinctive and interesting identity.

Appearing at the Royal Northern College of Music in a season promoted by the venerable Manchester Chamber Concerts Society, which has always prided itself on being a cut above the rest (even though its ill-produced and ill-written programme sheet might give just the opposite impression), the Florestan Trio was inviting comparison with the best of its kind. In that context — alongside, say, the Beaux Arts in its vintage years — it is evidently

### Lack of variety mars showcase

Where else would you invoke the joys of bibulousness, the Chammeleon Wind Quintet managed some realistic hiccupping and belching (piccolo and bassoon respectively) and a tendency to unruliness was not entirely out of place. It was less appropriate in Diana Burrell's Wind Quintet, where there were perceptible problems in tone production and ensemble. Martin Butler's *Down-Hollow Winds* fared better, but this promising group has some catching up to do, both individually and collectively. The most accomplished playing of the evening came from the pianist Martin Cousin, a master in the art of the tapered phrase, the dying fall and the precisely weighted texture, as he showed in Thomas Adès's *Traced Overhead*. James Clapperton's appealing Steven's *Piano Book* and David Bedford's early Piano Piece I. The plucky gestural qualities of Julian Anderson's *Piano Etudes Nos 1 & 2* were also well captured, as was the braggadocio of Simon Holt's *Tauromaquia*.

### Three not yet a company

lacking in style in presentation and security in technique. Apart from one or two fairly negligible individual failures, there were problems in blending an attractive sound and sustaining a cohesive ensemble. There is little point in offering Ravel's Piano Trio, for example, unless the textural complexities of the *Pantoum* second movement can be dispatched with both absolute precision and consummate ease.

It was clear from the slow movement of Schumann's

### Lack of variety mars showcase

same territory as each other, at least they revealed Emma Murphy to be a brilliant performer. Playing two recordings at once with virtuosic ease, she caught the wit in such pieces as David Bedford's *Piero de Résistance* and Louis Andriessen's *Ende*. But with an instrument of such limited expression, Stockhausen's diffuse *In Freundschaft* is a hard-to-acquire taste. Philip Wilby's *Brandenburg* introduced welcome theatricality by casting the player as a busker. The early evening recital by a piano duo, Jennifer Michaeloff and Giles Tassie, had been a more refreshing experience, though all four of their works were dense in texture. Most enjoyable of them proved to be the premiere of Jason Rebello's *The Race*, a piece full of pulsing energy that is an attractive addition to the two-piano repertoire.

### Lack of variety mars showcase

It was clear from the slow movement of Schumann's

It was clear from the slow movement of Schumann's

### Lack of variety mars showcase

After it, there was, mercifully, something approaching levity in Philip Grange's *Bac-*

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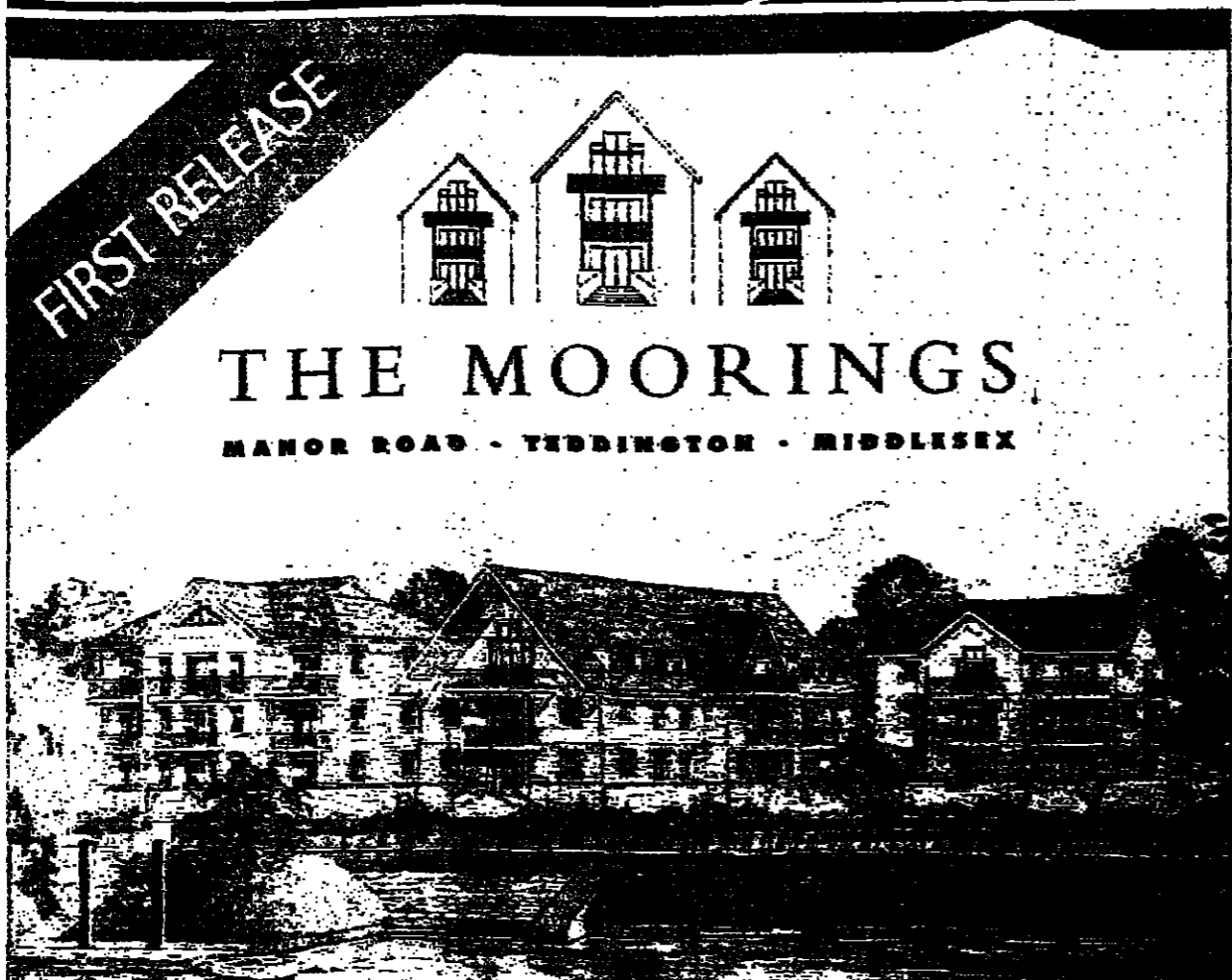
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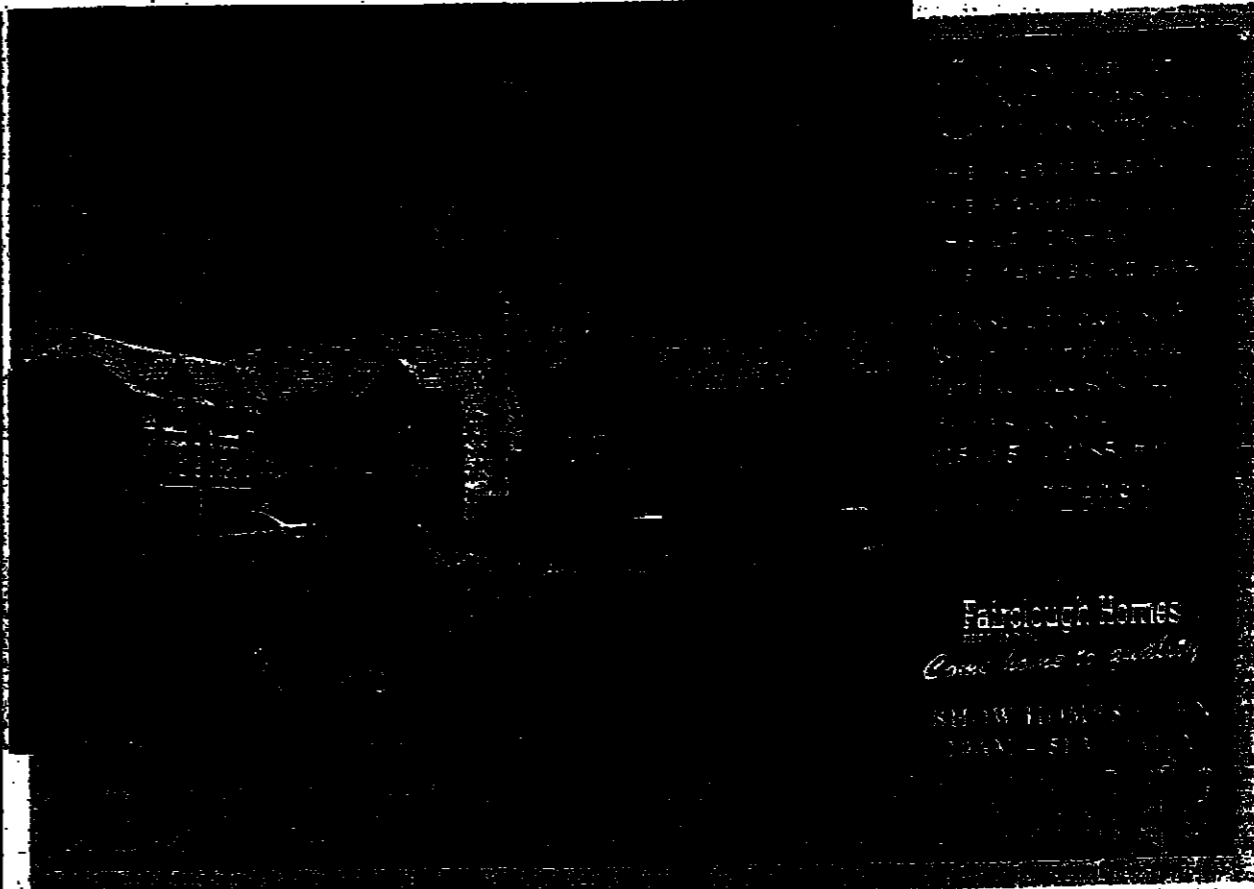
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# Demolished by design

The new wealthy are pulling down properties in Surrey and putting up their own modern piles, says Amanda Loose

The stately suburbs of Surrey are being demolished and replaced with modern dream homes. Properties built in the Twenties and Thirties around the Wentworth golf course near Virginia Water and at St George's Hill, Weybridge, and towns such as Cobham and Esher are now bought by developers so that they can be demolished and replaced with new piles.

Developers trying to meet the demand of the newly minted of the Nineties for "new build, des res" homes have come up with the scorched earth policy because planning restrictions in greenbelt areas limit severely the number of new building sites available.

Berkeley Homes demolished and rebuilt on a dozen sites in Surrey last year, replacing Twenties and Thirties houses with modern homes in the stockbroker belt. Each is on sale for about £2 million, and they can be reserved before they are built.

Another agent, Hamptons Inter-

national, is marketing Broomfield House and Windlewood Place, each priced at £2 million, in Windlesham, Surrey. Both are being built on the sites of older, small mansions.

Homes bought for demolition represent about 5 per cent of housing sites in these areas, and the trend is on the increase as buyers' requirements change, according to Antony Wardell, at Knight Frank, in Ascot.

Demolition is rife, especially on the classic Surrey estates, where the houses were built for a different lifestyle: Twenties living with a warren of servants' quarters and large, grand rooms," says Mr Wardell. "People with £2 million to spend no longer live like this and have different demands. Second-hand houses built earlier this century don't work now."

Peter Owen, of Berkeley Homes' Surrey division, estimates that the value of the landplot in prime areas is often much in excess of the value of its property.



Andrew Dewar of the Surrey agent Curchods says: "There is such an extreme shortage of building land in the area that properties which are past their sell-by date are often viewed in terms of the site on which they stand."

The trend is not just confined to the stockbroker belt. Paul Greenwood, of Stacks Relocation, says gaining planning permission on a decent piece of country land is becoming more difficult all over Britain.

"Most rural plots which become available consist of a small quarter of an acre plot in a village," he says. "Anyone wanting a prime location will find that they have a difficult task, so buying an existing property

and knocking it down is often the only feasible option."

Properties in prime locations in the Cotswolds are in demand and hard to find, says Jasper Fielding at Strutt & Parker, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, so more people are considering demolition and replacement as an option.

Strutt & Parker is taking offers on the plan of a two-storey, five-bedroom house in Cotswold stone which is due to be built on the site of the existing Fifties three-bedroom bungalow at Twinbrook Farm, near Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire.

Chris Knight, of Savills, Cambridge, says that most local authorities operate policies that allow

demolition and replacement, but many will stipulate that the property to be demolished is, ironically, sound and habitable. Some are more rigid than others when it comes to increases on the size of the original property.

Mr Knight says: "Most policies work on a like-for-like basis. If a property is derelict, then they are much tougher, as a lived-in house is not really being replaced by a lived-in house. Usually, outdated properties such as semis or small bungalows built in the Twenties or Thirties are demolished. Anything much older is normally restored rather than replaced."

Michael Parry-Jones, at Browns in Guildford, advises buyers not to pay over the odds for a property which will, in effect, become a building plot.

"This is a symptom of a strong market, but you should buy in the right area," he says. "If you pay £500,000 for a site, and then spend £500,000 building another property, then it must be worth something in the region of £1 million. You do not want to find you have ended up with something worth only £700,000."

# Condense bills with a boiler

Homeowners are missing out on a big energy-saver, says Hilaire Gomer

Saving the planet is about each of us making an effort, we were told at the Kyoto summit on global warming. Perhaps the simplest innovation of all is for homeowners to buy the most energy-efficient boiler there is: a "condensing" boiler. This would slash the average heating bill by about a third.

The new technology involved in a condensing boiler makes it up to 30 per cent more efficient than boilers 15 years old, and about 10 per cent more efficient than today's standard boiler which dominates the market and which most of us have.

Half the average home's energy bill goes on heating. The government-backed Energy Efficiency Trust estimates that householders not taking energy saving measures, of which the boiler is the largest factor. It reckons that if everyone installed condensing boilers the nation would prevent £750 million (11 per cent) of energy wastage.

The condensing boiler uses less fuel, and due to its technically advanced burners it produces fewer gases that contribute to global warming than a standard boiler.

Condensing boilers have existed for a while but it is only recently that the big manufacturers such as Potterton, Vaillant and Hepworth have started making them, and more importantly, promoting them. Currently they account for less than 2 per cent of the boiler market, absurdly low given how much they save on fuel bills.

But consumers may find it a battle to install such boilers. The Times asked five heating engineers (including British Gas) for a quotation for the job of heating a Victorian semi-detached house.

None of them mentioned condensing boilers. As I had heard about them, I asked each in turn: "What about condensing boilers?" Every time I met what, with hindsight, feels like an almost Luddite response. Replies ranged from: "Oh, you'll be a pensioner before you make it pay for itself" to "Don't touch 'em, they haven't got the technology right yet. They're always going wrong."

Given the vehemence of the replies, I accepted a standard

boiler. But now I wish I had not taken no for an answer. I should have got in touch with the Central Heating Information Council (CHIC). This industry marketing body was set up in May last year, largely by the boiler-makers, who claim that people are not being offered the best boiler and central heating system for different types of property and lifestyles. CHIC seeks to inform the public and it will give them a list of local engineers who are members and, among other things, condensing boiler friendly.

A new standard boiler achieves about 80 per cent plus energy efficiency compared with the 50 per cent of older boilers. However, the condensing boiler's "heat exchanger" recycles virtually all the "waste" heat that in a standard boiler is lost up a flue, achieving impressively economical efficiency levels of 90 per cent and more.

Do condensing boilers cost more? Yes, and this does put people off, particularly those who live in a small house or flat. One of the best systems for them, says CHIC, is a condensing "combination" boiler. People with larger houses are obvious beneficiaries. Paying extra for a condensing boiler, because their energy bills are so much higher, will be extra money well spent. A condensing boiler costs only £250-£350 more than a standard model and the Energy Efficiency Trust offers a £200 cashback to anyone who installs one before the end of February 1998.

Potterton says that one contributory factor to the low take-up rate for modern boilers is that heating engineers become fond of one way of installing central heating and often favour one particular boiler, which they press on their ignorant clients. Many heating engineers are automatically wary of anything new that may be fiddly to install (as is the condensing boiler) and expensive because that will push up their price and may lose them their commission. Many will not even go on installation courses that boiler-makers offer.

Central Heating Information Council 0845 600230 (local rate call), energy efficiency hotline: 0345 023005 (inquiries on cashbacks) and general inquiries 0345 2277300 (local rate call)



# Hope for the homeless



Without changes in social attitudes, Steve Mallin says, he might never have been housed

Steve Mallin, aged 42, spent 27 years without a permanent home. A year ago he moved into a one-bedroom flat funded by the Rough Sleeper's Initiative (RSI). For the one-time regular of Superdrug in The Strand in the heart of London, it is the first home he can call his own.

Mr Mallin is one of a number of people who have benefited from the success of policies since 1991 to reduce street homelessness. Then, a census carried out by the Homeless Network found 741 sleeping rough in Central London; last year a survey in a slightly bigger area showed that this figure has been reduced by more than half, to 367.

Over the past seven years the issue of homelessness has enjoyed greater public awareness, thanks to the campaigns of charities such as Crisis and the involvement of Diana, Princess of Wales. Since 1990 the Department of the Environment (now the DETR) has committed more than £82 million to the Rough Sleeper's Initiative. Introduced in London, it has expanded into more areas nationwide. It is now in its third three-year phase, and another £73 million of funding is being implemented.

The RSI has been developed in partnership with the charities and government agencies working with people sleeping rough and has funded a wide range of support for the homeless, from day centres and night shelters, to temporary and permanent accommodation. A DETR official says: "Since 1990, £225 million has been committed to tackle homelessness. More than half of that has been spent on building new housing, including at least 3,300 homes in Central London.

"Outreach and resettlement work is also funded, to identify the needs of people

Mark Cropper reports on a scheme that is changing lives

sleeping rough and to help them to make the transition to a more settled way of life. More than 4,500 people have passed through the rehousing scheme so far. To resettle people successfully is the real goal of the RSI."

Mr Mallin has lived in his flat in Brickton since December, 1996 and, provided there are never any grounds for eviction, has a tenancy for life.

Asked why he has spent so long on the streets, he says: "For a long time I didn't want to have anything to do with society. I could not be bothered getting off the streets, so bad were attitudes towards us. For a long time you couldn't get benefit. You had no rights. I couldn't stand the hostels. They were run like regiments. There was no housing list. So far as society was concerned, you were staying where you were. Once you're on the streets, you're there to stay. You can't go home for Christmas."

One chance for Mr Mallin to break the cycle came in the unlikely form of prison. "When I left prison," he says, "I was given a discharge grant of one week's payment, and a ticket back to the place where I was arrested. Unfortunately this was London. I battered myself in prison, but once back in London I returned to the streets."

Mr Mallin was eventually rehoused through The Passage, a centre for the homeless in Victoria, where he had been a regular visitor since its opening in 1980. He finally secured his own home under the auspices of The Passage's resettlement

worker, Jeff Stokes. Mr Mallin describes Mr Stokes as "the main cog in the wheels", but he says: "The first thing is that you have to be willing to be helped to get off the streets."

Despite his own desire to get off the streets, Mr Mallin explains that without the changing attitudes towards homelessness of the past few years — he cites the Rough Sleeper's Initiative and Crisis as important factors — he would still be where he was. He adds: "Resettlement takes time. It took time for me and Jeff to get to know and trust each other. I also had to go to one of The Passage's night shelters or hostels, so they could see how I behaved. Once I moved into my flat, I was given a six-month trial to see if I could cope on my own, hold myself up. I didn't want to be dependent on others."

"At the start, I ran up huge phone bills, but now I'm really feeling on top of things. I'm king of the castle now, whereas down in the West End I was nothing. I've changed things a lot since I moved in, painted everything."

"Since having my own place, I've really quietened down. Before, I had nothing to lose. I used to fight a lot. There was nothing to stop me punching a policeman in the face. Now, I've got a lot to lose."

"I'm over the moon that I have my own home. I'm over the next five planets, too."

The struggle is by no means over, though, and the Homeless Network's survey suggests that the predicament of homeless people is compounded by nearly half of them having alcohol problems, and a third suffering from poor mental health. Figures obtained over the past two years also show drug abuse increasing at an alarming rate. But for the hundreds in Central London who will sleep rough tonight, it is the lack of a secure home that presents the biggest problem of all.

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SWIMMING: SUDDEN DECLINE OF WORLD'S FASTEST OVERSHADOWS AUSTRALIAN SUCCESS

Record falls as Britain take bronze in relay

FROM CRAIG LORD IN PERTH

THE Great Britain men's 4x200 metres freestyle relay team, which won the European title for the first time last August, stood tall on a global stage yesterday when they set a national record to score Britain's first success at these world championships, a bronze medal behind Australia and Holland.

Having raced ahead of world-record pace for 15 of 16 lengths, Australia had to settle for a Commonwealth record of 7min 12.48sec. Only the Russia team that swam 0.53sec faster to win the 1992 Olympic title in Barcelona have gone quicker. Both squads were prepared by the same man, Gennadi Touretski, the coach of Alexander Popov, Touretski left Russia for Australia after the 1992 Games.

Britain had expected to win bronze at best. Paul Palmer, Gavin Meadows and Andrew Clayton kept the team in touch with Holland in third place, but the United States, in second, looked as though they might not be caught going into the last 200 metres.

Thankfully for Britain, the two opponents of James Salter had just won gold and silver medals in the 400 metres medley, Tom Dolan the winner for the US and Marcel Wouda, for Holland. Salter took advantage, catching a tiring Dolan down the third of four lengths and passing him with 30 metres to go.

Wouda was not about to give in so easily, though. The 6ft 4in Dutchman outstretched the 5ft 10in Salter for the touch. 7min 16.77sec to 7min 17.33sec — a British record that was 0.23sec inside their European title-winning time.

Deryk Snelling, the Britain performance director, and the team made much of the fact that Britain had beaten the United States, something they have done only once before over 4x200 metres freestyle in winning the silver medal behind West Germany in 1975. At the Olympic Games, Britain has won two bronze medals over the distance, with the United States the victor on both occasions.

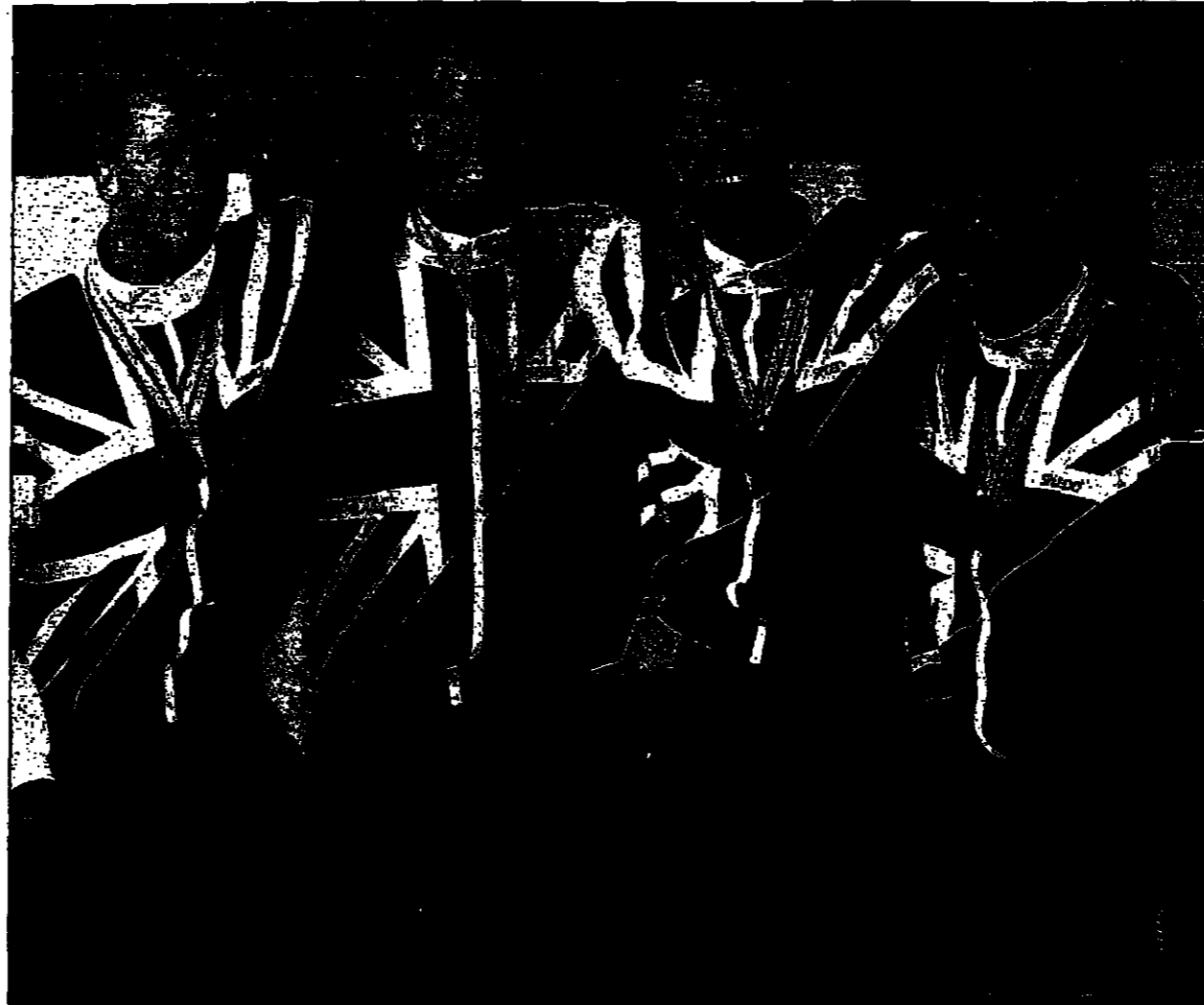
While defeating the US is certainly cause to celebrate, it is worth noting the continuing decline of American men's freestyle from a once world-beating position, while Britain were beaten by a Holland team that they had defeated just four months earlier and have a long way to go to catch Australia.

The first two races of the day, the 200 metres freestyle for women and 400 metres medley for men, provided few surprises, the titles going to the Olympic champions, Claudia Poll, of Costa Rica, and Dolan. The third individual race, however, was one of those that had all who had witnessed it wishing that they had placed a bet.

The odds on the three leading international title-holders in the women's 100 metres breaststroke failing to make the medal rostrum yesterday would have been massive. Yet, in a race that provided the fastest field of eight swimmers seen, neither the Olympic champion, Penny Heyns, the world champion, Samantha Riley, nor the European champion, Agnes Kovacs, finished among the top three.

For the first time, six swimmers finished under 1min 09sec in one race, the touch going to Kirsty Kowal, of the United States, in 1min 08.42sec. Helen Denman, the local favourite, was second, with the bronze going to Lauren van Oosten, of Canada. Just 0.74sec divided first place from last.

Meanwhile, with more than 20 police officers watching over the crowd, peace was kept in the water polo match between Croatia and Yugoslavia, thanks to a 6-6 draw.



Britain's 4 x 200 metres freestyle team, from left, Clayton, Palmer, Meadows and Salter, with their bronze medals

Chinese switch to life in slow lane

FROM CRAIG LORD

CHINA failed to make one final at the world championships yesterday, its swimmers paddling outside their best times by margins that made a farce of a number of heats and brought criticism for un-sportsmanlike behaviour.

The Chinese were so far outside the times that swept them up the world rankings at the National Games of China in October that performances were widely judged to have been deliberate. Chinese coaches said, however, that they were "conserving" their team's energy for later in the week, even though they were racing in their "best event" yesterday.

Fourth-fastest in the world over 200 metres freestyle and the third-fastest at the championships. Shan's best time is 1min 59.43sec, set in October. Yesterday, at Challenge Stadium, she recorded 2min 9.11sec, more than four seconds slower than the swimmer ranked No 150 in the world last year. Shan was neither breathless nor unhappy after the race, smiling and waving at her team-mates as if she had just won a world title. Luna Wang, who set the fourth-fastest 200 metres time ever, of 1min 57.32sec, in October, could only manage 2min 17.75sec yesterday.

In the 100 metres breaststroke for women, both Chinese were last in the heats. Wei Wang, ranked No 3 in the world and the tenth-fastest in the event on the all-time list, was a staggering 5.58sec outside her best over the two-length race. Her 1min 13.64sec effort, for 29th place behind both Great Britain entrants, Jaime King and Linda Hindmarsh, would leave her outside the best 150 in the world. Yi Zhang, fourth in the world since October, slumped to sixteenth place yesterday, in 1min 11.57sec.

Perhaps this would be a day for the Chinese men to show their improving form. Not so. For example, Xiong Guoming had rocketed from outside the top 60 in the world to No 5 in October, with a nine-second improvement over the 400 metres medley, to 4min 19.03sec. Yesterday, he went back to 4min 28.72sec.

Paul Bush, team manager for Britain, said of China: "Maybe they didn't sleep very well." Gregg Troy, head coach to the United States women's team, said that it was "pretty obvious that they're not as good as they were. It's certainly suspicious that that happened". Dave Johnson, the head coach of Canada, who was the first to raise suspicions about the Chinese in 1991, suggested a deliberate plan by China. "Their performances are pretty scattered, so maybe someone said 'slow down, you're going too fast'."

HOW THE CLOCK STOPPED table with columns for Women, Men, and time comparisons between Oct 1997 and Jan 1998.

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Walsh broods on issue of staying power

Alan Lee finds the deposed captain of West Indies in an agony of indecision

Courtney Walsh remains wounded beyond action, though not beyond words. The first and most sensitive casualty of change in West Indies cricket started out at Sabina Park in Kingston yesterday, still unable to decide whether he should play in the first Test against England, starting here on January 29.

"It's a harder decision than I thought it would be," Walsh said. "I need to have peace of mind from whatever I decide and there are other things I want to say when I make the announcement."

Walsh has not spoken with Lara since the change and neither did he converse with Hall, who was in Jamaica over the weekend. There has been little communication between the pair since Hall's committee nominated Lara as captain in October.

"It was time to move on with the captaincy and he has to accept that," Lloyd said yesterday. "He is still good yesterday to play but that's up to him. I am waiting to talk to him again but he's a bit confused."

Much of the anger will be defused if Walsh agrees to play, still the likelihood is, however, that most of 100 Test caps and 27 Test wickets behind Malcolm Marshall's West Indies record, he could conceivably achieve both targets before declaring this his farewell series.

of captaincy and willing to follow Walsh into retirement. "I may speak to Curtly in the next day or so but he won't have any input into my decision," Walsh said.

There is even talk of a recall for Patrick Patterson, now 36. Patterson, who made a dramatic Test debut against England in this city 12 years ago, retired in 1993 but is now back taking wickets for Jamaica.

Unsurprisingly, Walsh intends to sit the game out. As captain of Jamaica, he had match figures of ten for 102 in the drawn four-day game against Barbados this week.

Walsh's verdict on his future will have a heavy impact on the mood surrounding the first Test, which already promises to be a daunting baptism for Lara. The public here believe that Lara continually undermined Marshall's captaincy and they are not about to welcome him to the home town of their deposed hero.

Much of the anger will be defused if Walsh agrees to play, still the likelihood is, however, that most of 100 Test caps and 27 Test wickets behind Malcolm Marshall's West Indies record, he could conceivably achieve both targets before declaring this his farewell series.

"It was a new wicket and will look different for the Test," Walsh said. "But I hope it doesn't start hard and shiny. I hope it's a bit green. This, spoken with a broad grin, may have been the most revealing hint that we have not seen the last of him.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement with logo and text.

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT. This was the second of the BBL Premier League slams which involved a nine-card diamond fit missing the king and jack.

When Collings' team played Piper's team of Scots. Cuthbertson was North and Shenkin South. The bid of Two Spades was "fourth-suit forcing", asking South to describe his hand further and setting up a game-forcing sequence.

QUEAN a. A female cat b. A homosexual c. A stroke at billiards RIKKA a. The female mongoose b. A bicycle rickshaw c. Flower-arrangement

KEENE on CHESS advertisement with logo and text.

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT. Anand's setback. Having tied the main match 3-3 in the Fide World Chess Championship at Lausanne in Switzerland, the Indian grandmaster Anand collapsed against Karpov, the defending Fide champion, in their two-game quickplay tie-break.

White: Anatoly Karpov Black: Viswanathan Anand Fide world championship Lausanne, January 1998 King's Indian Attack. 1 Nf3 c5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 c6 4 0-0 Bg4 5 d3 Nc7 6 Nbd2 e6 7 e4 Be7 8 Qe2 0-0 9 Nc3 Bxc6 10 Re1 dxe4 11 dxe4 e5 12 Bc3 Qc7 13 Bb2 Rf6 14 Qf1 Rxc3 15 a3 b5 16 Bc3 Bb8 17 Nh4 Nc5 18 Bc3 Bg6 19 Nhg6 hpg6 20 Bg2 a6 21 Qe2 Ne6 22 Nf3 Nc7 23 a4 b4 24 Bb2 a5 25 c3 bxc3 26 Bxc3 Rf6 27 Rb1 Bc4

BY RAYMOND KEENE. White to play. From the game Karpov - Corn, Bad Lauterberg 1977. White has a concentration of force along the seventh rank but must find a clever move to make the most of his chances.

State-owned company ordered banned drug

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND CRAIG LORD

A STATE-OWNED Chinese importing company bought the human growth hormone that was found in the luggage of Yuan Yuan, the swimmer, when she arrived at Sydney airport last week on her way to the world championships in Perth.

From its packaging, The Times has traced the drug back to the supplier, a Danish company, Novo Nordisk. Novo disclosed yesterday that the growth hormone, used as a substitute for anabolic steroids and taken by Ben Johnson, the disgraced Canadian sprinter, was part of a shipment officially ordered by Beijing.

Anders Rosbo, Novo's communications manager, emphasised that the company was opposed to any misuse of growth hormone and that it was intended for hospitals in China. Instead, it came into the possession of Yuan's coach, Zhou Zhenwu, who admitted placing a flask of 15 vials, which were found to contain a biosynthetic growth hormone, in her luggage.

FOR THE RECORD

FOR THE RECORD section containing various sports results including Basketball, Football, Ice Skating, Motor Rallying, and Tennis.

Arabic text: حكايا من الأهل

RACING: CHAIRMAN STATES OPPOSITION TO FINANCIAL PLAN

Wakeham's resignation leaves BHB in disarray

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

AS RACING faced up to its latest and most damaging crisis yesterday, after the sudden resignation of Lord Wakeham from the chairmanship of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), one question was unanswered — did he jump or was he pushed?

Wakeham was adamant that such reservations should be included in the plan itself and made it clear he could not continue unless his view prevailed. Wakeham found himself isolated — and resigned.

His resignation was announced in a letter to the BHB members on Tuesday, in which he stated that he was unable to agree with the financial plan put before the board this morning. In my opinion, the plan is unrealistic in the current economic circumstances," he said in a statement.

Successor among the board's directors. Surprisingly, Savill has indicated to friends that he will not be throwing his hat in the ring. If he holds to that view, the outcome of the election could be determined largely by when it is staged, given the paucity of realistic candidates.

After months of division and bitterness within the BHB, centred mainly on Wakeham and Peter Savill, the outspoken president of the Racehorse Owners Association, the crunch for the former Cabinet minister came after breakfast yesterday.

The full BHB was about to discuss the long-awaited financial plan for a final time before it is unveiled at racing's annual forum today. The plan, prepared by a small group of advisers led by Sir Thomas, was to raise an extra £105 million a year, but Wakeham said that he could not support the blueprint unless it contained an addendum to the effect that it be viewed by Government as a three-to-five-year strategy — rather than an immediate demand, which he believed would be dismissed as laughable.

A compromise was suggested, according to informed sources, which would have involved a covering letter accompanying the financial plan to the Home Office and Treasury ministers. The letter would have made it clear that racing did not expect to achieve its target immediately, while stressing the need to talk and discuss racing's problems with ministers.

But by the time Wakeham replaced Lord Harrington, the BHB's honeymoon period was ending and the new chairman found himself in the unenviable position of having to dampen down racing's new-found radicalism and lofty expectations.

When Wakeham took over as BHB chairman, in June 1996, there were many who thought his political contacts and influence would be crucial in the final days of the year, but they were proved wrong as Wakeham whispers in the Government's ear that racing is deserving of nothing — apart from contempt.

Wakeham's decision was not taken lightly. He had been lobbied by friends late on Monday not to resign, but they were struck by the way he had apparently hardened his position over the weekend, compelling him to say: "In my opinion, he wanted out."

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Successor among the board's directors. Surprisingly, Savill has indicated to friends that he will not be throwing his hat in the ring. If he holds to that view, the outcome of the election could be determined largely by when it is staged, given the paucity of realistic candidates.

RACECARD: 1.00 THE NEGOTIATOR, 1.30 HEAD FOR HEAVEN, 2.00 SWEET LITTLE BEAR.

RACECARD: 1.00 VALENTINE GORTON, 1.30 VALENTINE GORTON.

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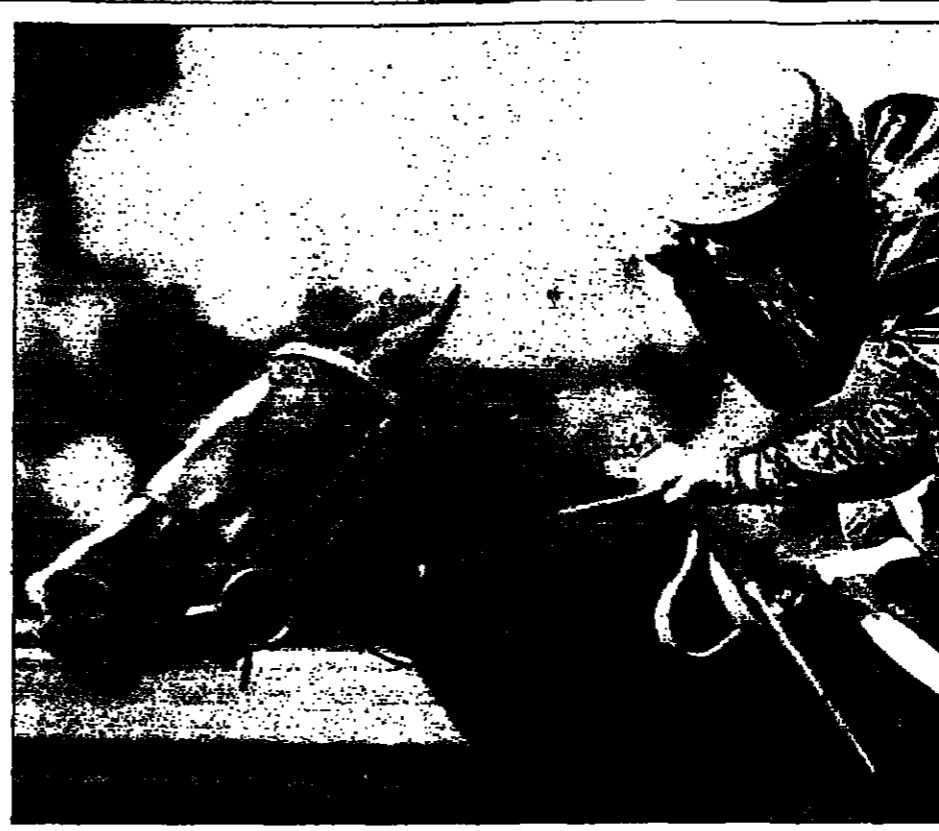
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Olivier Peslier shows his delight at Peintre Celebre's outstanding performance in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

Peintre Celebre sets the standard

By Chris McGrath

THE Portman Square boardroom yesterday was a place of intrigue and confrontation. Down in the basement, at the same time, a rather more wholesome gathering reminded racing that it can at least trust the horses to keep up standards.

Peintre Celebre, who beat Pilsudski by five lengths in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in October, is rated 137.

prove more likely to have been underrated than over-rated. While Naar excelled, the handicappers again expressed concern that timidity is costing the two-year-old division strength in depth.

RACELINE, FOLKESTONE, WOLVERHAMPTON, and other racing services and advertisements.

FOOTBALL

Port Vale provide prospect of romance

By DAVID MADDOCK

THERE is a school of thought that suggests that Newcastle United's reluctance to play Stevenage... romance is one thing, but the big clubs would rather have a loveless relationship...



Yorke will be unavailable for Aston Villa while playing for Trinidad and Tobago in the Gold Cup

Villa rue loss of golden boy Yorke

By RICHARD HOBSON

NO SOONER has Dwight Yorke recovered from injury than Aston Villa have discovered they will lose their leading striker for three weeks...

every country will feel it has a right to be part of it. Personally, I would not want to change the way it has grown...

He will not sign players in future unless they hold a European passport. Little, predicting a further influx of foreign players...

McMenemy on the wanted list

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

NORTHERN Ireland are stepping up their efforts to find a manager to lead them into the 2000 European championship...

telephone on Saturday and said that he would contact him once his business at Fratton Park had been resolved. He has yet to call.



McMenemy: target

With the association keen to appoint a high-profile successor to Bryan Hamilton, who was dismissed in October...

Venables, though coach of Australia, met with Spoke in London last Friday. He spoke to him again by

Jefferies demands cold Hearts

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JIM JEFFERIES, the manager of Hearts of Midlothian, is insisting that his team can regain the leadership of the Scottish League premier division...

Hearts manager wishes to see eradicated. "We had to win to keep up the pressure on Rangers and with Celtic slipping up on Saturday...

season we looked like we would go on to win by three or four when that happened and never gave anything away.

BOXING: PROMOTER ANGRY AS DISCIPLINARY HEARING OVER PUBLICITY MATERIAL IS DELAYED

Board forces Maloney to pull his punches

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK MALONEY'S appearance before the British Boxing Board of Control to answer disciplinary charges...

the best interests of boxing, was disappointed at having to wait to take on the board. He said that he would be bringing journalists, ring-card girls, members of the public...

is bringing a whole lot of witnesses. We would not have been able to fit them in anyway and we would have had them milling outside around with a media circus.

Warren announced yesterday that Hide would be defending his World Boxing Organisation title on February 28 at Norwich against an opponent yet to be selected.

Frank's offer." Maloney said. "Perhaps then he'll consider letting Naseem Hamed fight Paul Ingle. We could do a double-header."

CROSSWORD CHAMPION

MARTIN COPEMAN, of St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, is the winner of The Times crossword...

HOCKEY

Scotland turn to familiar faces indoors

By CATEY HARRIS

THREE experienced players - Wendy Justice, Margery Coussis and Ann Mezzies - will come out of retirement to join the Scotland squad for the European indoor championship...

Advertisement for William Hill betting, featuring a large 'FREE £10 BET' headline and contact information.

A table with football betting odds for various matches, including Arsenal vs. other teams.

Additional text related to the crossword puzzle or other sports news.

ICE SKATING Russians quickly into their stride

FROM ANGIOLA COURT IN MILAN

THERE were no surprises here yesterday in the compulsory dance section of the European championships...

The two Russian couples collided during the warm-up for the quickstep, which resulted in Krylova's blade ripping...

The couples are fierce rivals. Fourteen months ago they trained together in Delaware, with Natalia Linichuk and Gennadi Karponosov...

The men's event begins today. Steven Cousins, eight times the British champion, who is competing in his ninth European championships...

Much will rest on whether he can successfully land and combine 3 1/2 rotation triple axel jumps with a double, or preferably a toe loop jump...

During practice here, Cousins has landed not just triple axels but a quad salchow, which is nearly double the height...

Results, page 38

A fixtures table listing various football matches and their scheduled times.

A table showing the current positions of various football teams in different leagues.

A table listing various sports events and their details.

PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION WILLIAM HILL FOOTBALL RULES APPLY TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT PLEASEPHONE 0800 285 892

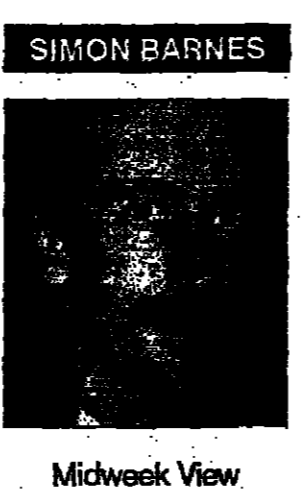


Blowing the whistle on rugby's silent types

Rugby union has always been in love with silence. It is a game filled with secrets, with cliques and cabals, of teams within teams.

Yesterday, the issue was still being fudged. No one has confessed. No individual has been accused. Bath, having spent three days repeating into the sport's staid love of silence, came up at last with something that is, at best, a semi-fudge.

Bath say that two of the three front row men were definitely innocent — and, what is more, they will support these men against anything London Scottish can throw at them.



Simon Barnes: Midweek View

pride themselves on loyalties within loyalties: a prop is a member of a team, a member of the forwards, a member of the tight five, a member of the front row union.

Silence is seen as a matter of moral strength, more, moral dignity. Silence is the way the strong individuals react to the pressures of the mass. Silence is bravery: to be silent is to become a witness for the entire notion of moral courage.

could be, as it were, swept under the carpet, but professional sport cannot afford to lose a paying audience, especially if it is in a state of serious financial overreaching.

'Whoever did it is relying on the old code of secrecy'

'There is not another game where more violence can be concealed'

RUGBY UNION

Sella returns to raise Saracens' cup aspirations

BLACKHEATH and Saracens will play their fourth-round Tetley's Bitter Cup match tonight — at the fourth attempt. The Rectory Field, which is prone to flooding, has suffered worse than most because of the weather.

Saracens will try to use the game as a confidence-builder after indifferent performances in recent weeks. Blackheath will start as underdogs but with players such as John Gallagher, the former All Black, in the side, they will cause problems for Nigel Wray's international band.

line up against the Northern Bulls, the South African Super 12 team, in the Welsh Rugby Union Challenge Trophy match tonight.



Sella: back

Irish students face tough examination

THE prospect of appearing at Wembley in the final of The Times Students' European Rugby Championship is the bait for the sides that appear in the semi-finals, the first of which, between University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, and University College, Cork, takes place this evening in Toulouse.

ers are due to sit examinations that day. Mike Wall, the UWIC secretary, said that attempts to find an alternative venue had failed. 'Nothing was available at such short notice. I hope it does go ahead next week, otherwise we will face a serious fixture backlog in the league and the Swales Cup.'



Hermann Maier, of Austria, shaves a gate en route to victory in the giant slalom race in Adelboden, Switzerland, yesterday.

layer and part-time ski instructor, posted the fastest time in the first run and second-fastest in the final for a combined time of 2min 20.08sec.

by Von Gruenigen, who finished second despite dislocating his shoulder in a slalom in Bormio last Thursday.

Scotland wary of Italian threat

IT IS a tribute to the growing status of Italian rugby that Scotland officials have been unable to contemplate the possibility of going into the international match in Treviso next week at anything less than full strength.

victory over Ireland. By contrast Scotland, hapless against Australia in November, were systematically taken apart by South Africa, who ended their tour with a 68-10 win at Murrayfield.

regularly at a high level with French clubs, including Diego Dominguez, their playmaker.

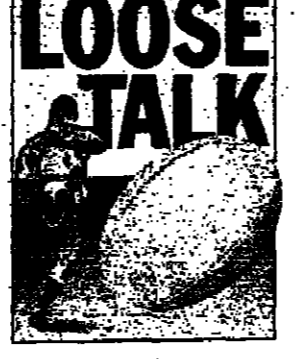
Although the influence of the Milan club has been considerably diluted, that of Treviso remains substantial, with seven of their number in the squad. Those members of the Scotland squad who were with Caledonia Reds need reminding of the task facing them in Treviso. The Italian club lost to the Reds in Perth, yet ran in 50 points in a stylish display on their own ground.

Bath raise their glasses to Channel 5 deal

The ban on alcohol advertising in France on a Sunday means that Bath will not be able to sport the name of their sponsor, Teacher's, on their shirts during the Heineken Cup final against Brive on January 31 in Bordeaux.

longer," he said. "At the moment it is ridiculous. I hope the coach tells everyone to shut up."

bounced back up and caught me straight between the legs"



land captain, Wainwright, who lives in a remote part of Perthshire, met an old friend recently, who asked how he was. "Fine, even though I got dressed in the dark. Can't you tell?" Wainwright said.

thing to celebrate are Ieuan Evans and Robert Jones. The duo are sharing a tribute dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel tomorrow night.

Tom," the interviewer said, "what do you think of your chances against Leinster?" Kiernan replied: "I'll tell you the way it is. If you play Leinster in two or three matches, they'd beat you nine times out of ten."

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (°C), Last snow

Silence is golden

Trick's treat

Dictators grate

Name game

Talking point

Dinner date

Home groan







SWIMMING 38 British quartet strike bronze in freestyle relay

SPORT

CRICKET 38 Deposed Walsh broods over Test future



WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14 1998

Bath seek further details from London Scottish after 'inconclusive' video evidence

Suspended Yates denies biting

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN YATES, one of England's most promising young prop forwards, was suspended by Bath last night pending the outcome of their own investigation into the ear-biting incident at the Recreation Ground last Saturday.



Swift investigation

During the three days since the incident that left Simon Fenn, the London Scottish flanker, with an ear so badly ripped that it required 25 stitches and may yet need a skin graft, Bath officials have spoken with most of the players who took part in the Tetley's Bitter Cup fourth-round tie.

Their laudable desire to be as accurate as possible in their deliberations, of course, flies directly in the face of Fenn's own account of the event: the Australian described falling into the tunnel of a collapsed scrum and feeling his ear being torn by a bite.

Yates himself, capped twice against Argentina last summer, has withdrawn from the scheduled England squad training at Bisham Abbey today to ensure no disruption to the squad as a whole from the inevitable media interest.

Technically, Bath's further deliberations should be concluded by tomorrow evening, to comply with the terms of the citing procedure invoked by London Scottish, but club officials have kept in contact with the RFU and have been assured that they will be given sufficient time to study all the available evidence.

details from the hospital in Roehampton where Fenn has been treated.

They are also most unhappy that London Scottish decided on Monday to cite to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) the three Bath front-row forwards — Yates, Federico Mendez and Victor Ubogu — who were on the field at the time.

"We have reviewed five different videos, consulted with medical practitioners and we are awaiting evidence from London Scottish," Swift said.

"What we have received so far from London Scottish is a video which is totally inconclusive and a picture of Simon's ear.

"It's a very serious injury and one that we very much regret. We are delighted that it

'The game is not run by laws and referees... it is based on unspoken agreements and silence among the players'

Simon Barner's view, page 41

looks as though Simon will make a full recovery and all of us at Bath Rugby Club fully understand how important an issue this is to the game of rugby as a whole, and to Bath in particular.

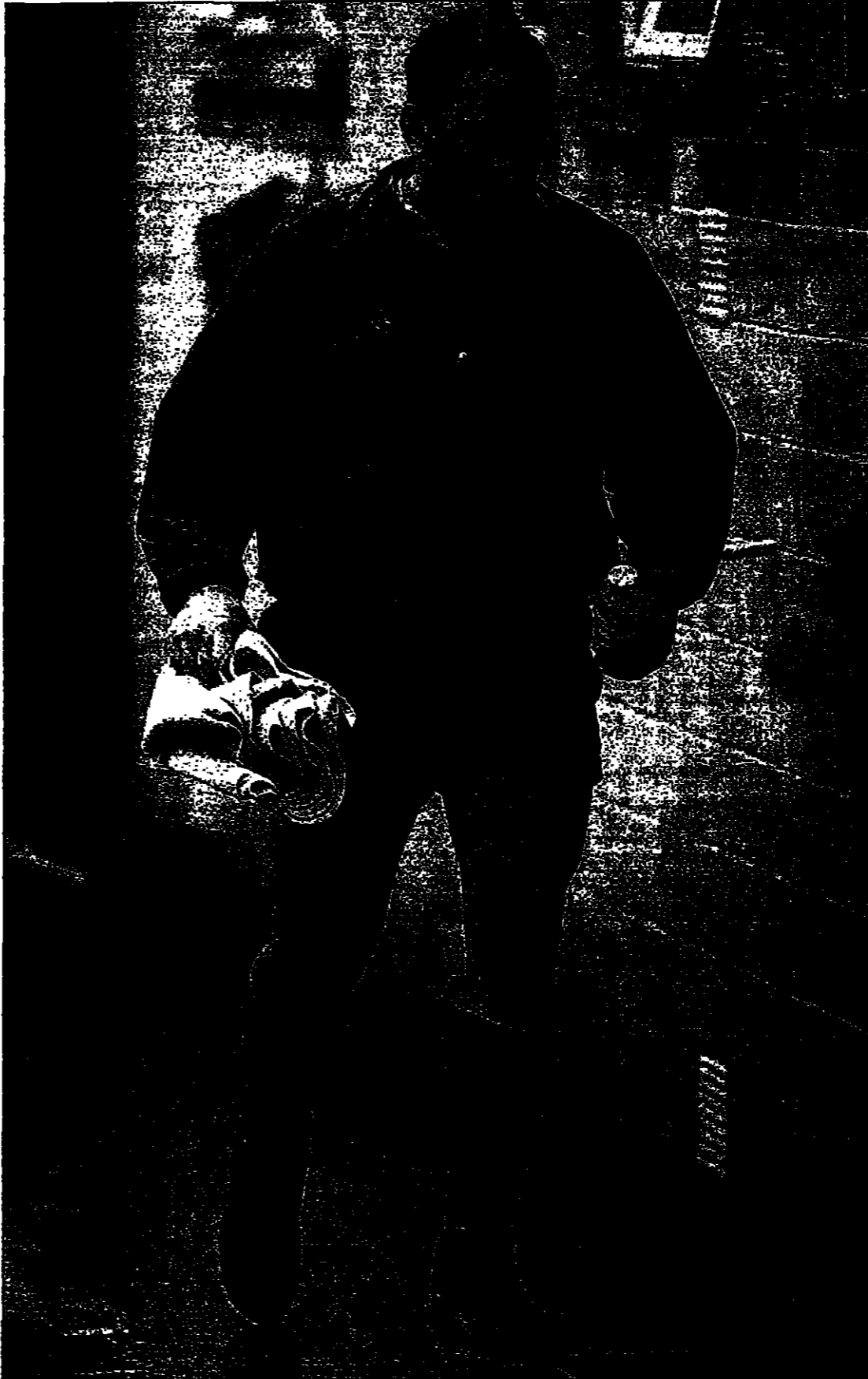
In effect, however, Bath have cleared all their players save one. Mendez, the Argentine hooker, has asserted his own innocence: "All I know is that there was a lot of blood and I wondered what was going on," he said.

Bath are completely satisfied there is no evidence against Mendez or Ubogu and believe that the two men, who both have business interests outside rugby, have been wrongly dragged into the debate by London Scottish.

The action taken by the Ediles, however, was clearly intended to provoke a response which they believed to be slow in coming, but Swift said: "We have to be extremely careful in our investigation. I don't want to say one of my players is lying, all I'm saying is that we have a situation where all parties maintain their innocence at the moment, which creates a significant problem."

"By suspending Kevin, we have shown we feel that during our investigation we have come across certain issues that need answering. We are not saying Kevin is guilty, we haven't got the evidence to support that."

In disciplinary terms the responsibility is now on London Scottish to prove, to the satisfaction of an RFU hearing, who the culprit is, although any such hearing will take account of action taken by Bath, Yates, who is suspended on full pay, is co-operating with the club investigation being made by Swift, Andy Robinson, the club coach, and Thomas Sheppard, a company director and also a solicitor. A conclusion is expected early next week.



Yates, who denies the biting allegation, returns to the Bath dressing-room after training yesterday

David Hands traces the rise of the man at the centre of the incident that has brought shame upon rugby union

Successive England managements have regarded Kevin Yates as one of the new generation of front-row forwards: Jack Rowell capped him twice against Argentina during England's summer tour last year and Clive Woodward valued his services sufficiently highly to include him among the replacements for the epic 26-26 draw with New Zealand last month and in the latest national squad training session.

All of Yates's first-class rugby has been played with Bath, for whose youth team he appeared before a brief period with Chippenham. Born in Medicine Hat, Canada, he first became interested in rugby while his father was stationed with the Royal Corps of Transport in Hong Kong.

He went to John Bentley School, in Caine, and later impressed enough to appear twice in England Under-21 XV's, against Italy and France. At 22, with only 14 senior appearances for Bath behind him, Yates played in the 1995 Pilkington Cup final against Wasps and accompanied the England A party that toured Australia that summer.

At 5ft 11in and just short of 17st, Yates proved not only a sound scrummager at loose-head prop, but also a notable contributor in the loose, exactly the qualities that Rowell and Woodward, as England coaches, were seeking from their tight forwards. He made three England A appearances in 1996 and a further two, against Scotland and France, last season, emerging as a contender for England's World Cup squad in 1999.

Though he won his two caps in the summer for an England side weakened by the requirements of the British Isles party in South Africa, Yates played well against Argentina, who are renowned for the strength of their scrummaging. An affable tourist, he also proved a practical joker, appearing on crutches at the press conference that preceded the announcement of his England debut after turning an ankle while crossing a potholed road in Córdoba.

He appeared as a replacement for Emerging England against the New Zealanders at Huddersfield last November and was singled out for praise for his performance against the All Blacks a week later, playing for an English Rugby Partnership XV at Bristol. It was sufficient to win him promotion to the senior squad for the drawn game between England and New Zealand, at Twickenham, on December 6, and only last week he was included in the squad required at Bisham Abbey today to begin preparations for the five nations' championship.

For much of this season, Yates has vied with David Hilton, the more experienced Scotland prop, for a place in Bath's first XV and was preferred for most of the significant games, in particular those against European opposition, which have seen Bath through to the Heineken Cup final.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

- ACROSS: 5 Spread interests wide (4,3,5), 8 Concealed killer (6), 9 Reason for action (6), 10 Fish complain (4), 12 Eye-glass (7), 14 Cold S French wind (7), 15 Prod; pig unseen in one (4), 17 Red Bordeaux (6), 18 Crude portrait (for abuse) (6), 20 Monster maker (Shelley) (12)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1301: ACROSS: 5 Unwise 7 Phobia 9 Litoral 11 Seek 12 Token 13 Morrow 15 Sorrow 17 Guard 19 Hosi 20 Cultural 22 Daubte 23 Cosset

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

Portsmouth dismiss Fenwick

By MATT DICKINSON

TERRY FENWICK was dismissed as manager of Portsmouth yesterday when the National League first division club set about severing its connections with the turbulent era under the chairmanship of Terry Venables.

It was almost three years ago that Fenwick, 38, was appointed to the post on Venables's recommendation, replacing Jim Smith, now at Derby County, and his dismissal came just 24 hours after his mentor agreed to relinquish control of the South Coast club. The decision came on the eve of the FA Cup third-round replay against Aston Villa in Birmingham tonight, when Keith Waldon, the assistant manager, will take charge of the team.

Venables was understood to be negotiating the final details of his £250,000 pay-off last night, but there was nothing complicated about Fenwick's departure, which came in a telephone call from Switzerland from Martin Gregory, the club's former owner and managing director.

Fenwick, who had taken the club to within three points of the play-offs and to an FA Cup quarter-final last season, was struggling to lift the club from the foot of the first division after suffering 14 defeats in 25 matches this season, including a 3-0 loss at home to Manchester City on Saturday.

Controversial laboratory to close

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Lisbon laboratory that provided the catalyst for the Diane Modahl drugs controversy is to have its accreditation withdrawn by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the athlete's husband claimed yesterday.

performed. We have not played to our full potential and losing so many players to international calls has not helped me to pick a settled side."

That was a reference to the large contingent of Australians recruited by Venables, coach of the Australia side, as well as Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson, two Jamaican internationals, who have missed large chunks of the season.

The Portsmouth players have regarded the side-show caused by Venables's high-profile involvement as a distraction and his departure, along with Fenwick's, is likely to be greeted with considerable relief in the dressing room.

Luring a successor, though, may prove to be difficult, given the club's recent disruptions, unless the proposed investment of Vince Wolanna, the American property magnate, and Brian Howe, the rock musician, proves to be more than talk. They are scheduled to meet Gregory this weekend.



Fenwick: not surprised

the cost of the case could now rise towards £2 million. In addition to the original claim to recover £480,000 spent on legal and medical costs in challenging the finding, and a similar sum in punitive damages, Vicente Modahl said that because the BAF had declined to settle, their costs would be probably between £500,000 and £750,000.

In the meantime, Diane Modahl is training in Tenerife for the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September. She is determined to win selection, turn up and, this time, run "For Diane, the Commonwealth Games represents the greatest tragedy in her life," Vicente Modahl said. "It will be like a pilgrimage to seek peace in her heart."

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مكتبة الأمل